LOUISIANA

EQIP

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

HANDBOOK

FISCAL YEAR 2003

USDA
NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE

LOUISIANA

EQIP

HANDBOOK *TABLE OF CONTENTS*

CHAPTER I

A. Time Line

A. EQIP 2003 Time Line

- **October 2002 – September 2003**
  - Continuous Sign-Up
- **May 9, 2003**
  - Cut Off Date for First Ranking Pool
- **May, 2003**
  - First Parish Allocation Made
- **May 30, 2003**
  - Conduct Local Conservation Program Committee meetings
  - Submit recommended Parish EQIP Handbook (Chapter III) to State Office for approval
- **June 6, 2003**
  - State office provides approved FY-03 EQIP Handbook (State Handbook w/ Parish (Chapter III) addendum) to Field Office
- **June 13, 2003**
  - Complete Ranking Process for First Ranking Pool
  - Transmit First Pool Ranking Register(s) to State Office
- **June 20, 2003**
  - SWCD Board Completes First Selection of Applications for Plan Development
- **July 11, 2003**
  - All Contracts Selected for funding from First Parish Allocation Completed and Signed
  - Transmit Register(s) of Signed Contracts and Fund Obligations of the First Approval Period to State Office
  - Transmit Register(s) of non-funded applications from First Ranking Pool to State Office
  - Parish Allocation Sweep
- **July 18, 2003**
  - Second Parish Allocation Made (if applicable)
- **August 15, 2003**
  - All Contracts Selected for funding from Second Parish Allocation Completed and Signed
  - Transmit Register(s) of Signed Contracts and Fund Obligations of the Second Approval Period to State Office

CHAPTER I

B. Program Implementation

1. Local Conservation Programs Committee

B. Program Implementation

1. Local Conservation Programs Committee

The Local Conservation Programs Committee (LCPC), chaired by the Soil and Water Conservation District, will convene to review and make recommendations to modify, and/or adopt this State EQIP Handbook.

The purpose of the Local Conservation Programs Committee is to provide advice to NRCS on the Conservation Programs for which NRCS has administrative responsibilities; and to function in an advisory capacity to provide recommendations to NRCS at the local level for implementing conservation program provisions.

The Local Conservation Programs Committee will adopt an EQIP Handbook for each parish served. The Parish EQIP Handbook may be a duplicate of the Louisiana EQIP Handbook or it may be modified to fit the resource needs for a particular parish.

All structural (cost-share) practices listed in the Louisiana EQIP Handbook **will** be eligible at a cost share rate established by the LCPC. Parishes are not authorized to delete structural (cost-share) practices from the state list of eligible cost-share practices. Parishes may delete management (incentive) practices from the state list of eligible practices.

The Local Conservation Programs Committee may recommend modifications to the EQIP Handbook that include the lowering of Cost-Share / Incentive Payment Levels. (**example:** If the State handbook list 75% C/S for a practice, the LCPC may reduce the level to 60% C/S) (In no cases can the State level be exceeded) **Note:** Cost share rates for practices associated with Livestock concerns will not be set lower than 50%. In order to assist producers comply with EPA CAFO rules, practices that target animal waste systems will be set no lower than 65% cost share; i.e., Waste Storage Facility (313), Waste Treatment Lagoon (359), and Composting Facility (317). Other practices (non-livestock and non-animal waste system) will be set no lower than 25% cost share. **Note:** When recommendation are made to lower cost-share / incentive payment levels, documentation will be made in the Parish EQIP Handbook Supplement (Chapter III), Eligible Practice List, and on the practice provision page under Maximum Federal Cost Share.

The Local Conservation Programs Committee will recommend Cost-Share Levels for Limited Resource Producers and Beginning Farmers or Ranchers at a minimum of 10% greater than the locally set cost-share level not to exceed 90%. (**example:** If the LCPC recommends a cost-share level for a practice at 50%, the LCPC will recommend the Limited Resource Producer and Beginning Farmers or Ranchers cost-share level, for that same practice, between 60% and 90%) **Note:** Recommended cost-share levels for Limited Resource Producers and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers will be documented in the Parish EQIP Handbook Supplement (Chapter III), Eligible Practice List, and on the practice provision page under Maximum Federal Cost Share.

B. Program Implementation

1. Local Conservation Programs Committee (continued)

The Local Conservation Programs Committee may recommend modifications to the EQIP Handbook that include setting maximum practice cost or units per contract. (**example:** The LCPC may recommend that the maximum contract cost for Irrigation Land Leveling (464) is no more than $5,000 per contract or that the maximum contract acres for Irrigation Land Leveling (464) is no more than 100 acres per contract) **Note:** This limitation can only be set by practice. In no case can a limitation be set by contract nor can the maximum payment limitation of $450,000 per individual during the period of Fy-2002 – 2007 be modified.

When the Local Conservation Programs Committee recommends a maximum practice cost, the Limited Resource Producer and Beginning Farmer and Rancher cost-share level difference will also apply to the maximum practice cost. (**example 1:** The LCPC recommends a cost-share level for a practice at 60% cost-share. The LCPC recommends a Limited Resource Producer and Beginning Farmer or Rancher cost-share level, for that same practice, at 75% cost-share. In addition, the LCPC recommends a maximum practice cost of $3,000 per contract. The difference between the base cost-share level and the Limited Resource Producer and Beginning Farmer or Rancher cost-share level is 15%. Therefore, the maximum practice cost for Limited Resource Producers and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers would be $3,450 ($3,000 x 15% = $450) ($3,000 + 450 = $3,450)) **Note:** When maximum practice cost are recommended, documentation will be made in the Parish EQIP Handbook Supplement (Chapter III) as a footnote under the Eligible Practice List and on the practice provision page under Maximum Federal Cost Share.

The Local Conservation Programs Committee may recommend reducing the number of years that management practices are eligible for incentive payments. (**example:** If the Louisiana EQIP Handbook states that a management practice is eligible for incentive payments for a maximum of 3 years, the LCPC may recommend reducing the number of years to 1 or 2) The Local Conservation Programs Committee may also recommend lowering Incentive Payment Levels. (**example:** If the Louisiana EQIP Handbook state that a management practice incentive payment level is $10 per acre, the LCPC may recommend lowering the level to $5 per acre. **Note:** When recommendations are made to reduce the number of years that management practices are eligible for incentive payments or to lower the incentive payment level, documentation will be made in the Parish EQIP Handbook Supplement (Chapter III), Eligible Practice List, and on the practice provision page under Maximum Federal Cost Share.

Recommendations of the Local Conservation Programs Committee to modify the Louisiana EQIP Handbook for a particular parish are to be sent to the State Program Manager for approval by the State Conservationist. The letter requesting modification of the EQIP Handbook must be signed by the LCPC Chairman. If approved, the approval letter from the State Conservationist will be filed in front of the EQIP Handbook for that parish.

Written LCPC meeting records will be maintained for a minimum of 5 years.

CHAPTER I

B. Program Implementation

2. Application Sign-Up Process

B. Program Implementation

2. Application Sign-Up Process

a) The current EQIP rules require a continuous sign-up. FY-2003 continuous sign-up began **October 1, 2002**. FY-2002 applications that were not funded may be deferred to FY-2003.

b) Applicants may apply by completing the CCC-1200 Application Form and Appendix and submit in person, by phone, e-mail, internet "eCommerce", fax, or letter to the local NRCS, FSA, or Conservation District office. Under a reimbursable agreement, FSA will continue to receive EQIP applications and make person eligibility determinations.

c) Continuous sign-up began **October 1, 2002**. Applications for the first approval period will be accepted through **May 9, 2003**.

d) Applications will be posted by parish on one of two application registers. One register will consist of all Livestock applications, a second will consist of all Cropland and Forestland applications. The register(s) will be sorted in order of ranking score (highest to lowest).

e) Applications will continue to be taken after **May 9, 2003**. In the event that there is a second ranking period, these applications may be considered. Otherwise, all applications that are not funded may be deferred to the FY-2004 sign-up.

CHAPTER I

B. Program Implementation

3. Application Ranking and Selection

B. Program Implementation

3. Application Ranking and Selection

a) FSA receives CCC1200's (contract application) and makes person eligibility determinations.

b) FSA will forward all applications to NRCS on a weekly basis at a minimum. FSA will advise NRCS of any applications that were found not to be eligible.

Note: In some cases, a participant's land may be physically located in one parish and administered by FSA in a separate parish. When this occurs, the ranking and plan development (if selected) will be conducted by the parish in which the land is physically located. The funds will be allocated to the parish in which the land is administered by FSA. Contract payments will be certified by NRCS in which the land is located and paid by FSA in which the land is administered. District Conservationist will coordinate the transfer of these activities and advise State Office of the occurrence.

Example: A participant's land is located in parish A and is administered by FSA in Parish B. The application is forwarded to NRCS in Parish A. Parish A conducts the ranking. The application will be posted on parish A's register. If selected, parish A develops and houses the plan and contract. Because the contract acres are administered by FSA parish B and located in parish A, the DC in parish A must notify State Office at or prior to the time of obligation. The State Office will re-allocate the contract funds from FSA in parish A to FSA in parish B. Although the contract funds are allocated to parish B, the funds are being spent on the ground in parish A. The DC in parish A will coordinate CCC-1245 activities with FSA in parish B.

c) NRCS will complete an application ranking for each eligible application (See Chapter II, Application Ranking). Field visits will not be required to conduct application rankings.

d) The participant and the Designated Conservationist will review and sign each application ranking. Ranking Forms must be signed by close of business on the designated date for completing the ranking process. Ranking Forms that are not signed will be deferred to the next ranking pool.

e) Once reviewed and signed, the application ranking score will be posted on the EQIP Application Register. Applications will be posted by parish on one of two Application Registers. One register will consist of all Livestock applications, a second will consist of all Cropland and Forestland applications. Applications will be sorted in order of ranking score (highest to lowest).

Note: See Chapter I, A. Time Line for Application Period Cut Off Dates.

B. Program Implementation

3. Application Ranking and Selection (continued)

f) State Office makes First Parish Allocation. **In accordance with national policy, 60% of the parish allocation must be directed to Livestock concerns and 40% must be directed to Forestland and/or Cropland concerns.** Allocations will be made by parish by parish basis and can only be used for applications within that specific parish. Field offices will divide each total parish allocation into a 60 / 40 split. 60% of the parish allocation for Livestock applications and 40% of the parish allocation for Forestland and/or Cropland applications. If a parish funds all of its Livestock applications and has remaining Forestland and/or Cropland applications, remaining funds may be moved from Livestock to Forestland / Cropland. Vise versa, if a parish funds all of its Forestland and/or Cropland applications and has remaining Livestock applications, remaining funds may be moved from Forestland/Cropland to Livestock. This can only be done within a parish. Parish funds cannot be moved to another parish unless State Office conducts a re-allocation.

g) At the end of the first ranking period, the SWCD Board will review each Application Register. If all applications are acceptable, they may approve all applications on the register for Plan / Contract Development. If all applications are not acceptable, they may set a cut off point based on ranking scores.

h) NRCS will conduct site visits and develop Conservation Plans / Contracts with Actual Cost following the order of the selection register (highest score first and then work down the list). In the event of a tie in ranking scores, the date of application (first come, first serve) should be used to select applications. All participant signature requirements will be obtained within 10 days of completing Conservation Plans / Contracts or by close of business on the designated date to complete and sign all selected contracts, whichever is earliest. Contracts that are not signed will be deferred to the next ranking pool. Contracting Officers will approve contracts (CCC-1200) and obligate funds until a point that the last fully funded contract does not exceed the Parish Resource Concern Allocation. **District Conservationist will assure that the amount of EQIP Funds obligated does not exceed 100% of the Parish Allocation.** If the next application on the register exceeds the remainder of the Parish Resource Concern Allocation, the application is not eligible for approval unless additional funds are allocated from the State Office.

i) Field Offices will transmit Registers of Signed Contracts and Obligations of the first approval period to State Office. State Office will conduct a Parish Allocation Sweep of all unobligated funds.

j) Field Offices will transmit Registers of non-funded applications from First Ranking Pool to State Office.

B. Program Implementation

3. Application Ranking and Selection (continued)

k) State Office makes Second Parish Allocation. . **Note**: Not all parishes will receive a Second Parish Allocation. **In accordance with national policy, 60% of the parish allocation must be directed to Livestock concerns and 40% must be directed to Forestland and/or Cropland concerns.** Allocations will be made by parish by parish basis and can only be used for applications within that specific parish. Field offices will divide each total parish allocation into a 60 / 40 split. 60% of the parish allocation for Livestock applications and 40% of the parish allocation for Forestland and/or Cropland applications. If a parish funds all of its Livestock applications and has remaining Forestland and/or Cropland applications, remaining funds may be moved from Livestock to Forestland / Cropland. Vise versa, if a parish funds all of its Forestland and/or Cropland applications and has remaining Livestock applications, remaining funds may be moved from Forestland/Cropland to Livestock. This can only be done within a parish. Parish funds cannot be moved to another parish unless State Office conducts a re-allocation.

l) NRCS will conduct site visits and develop Conservation Plans / Contracts with Actual Cost following the order of the selection register (highest score first and then work down the list). In the event of a tie in ranking scores, the date of application (first come, first serve) should be used to select applications. All participant signature requirements will be obtained within 10 days of completing Conservation Plans / Contracts or by close of business on the designated date to complete and sign all selected contracts, whichever is earliest. Contracts that are not signed will be deferred to the next ranking pool. Contracting Officers will approve contracts (CCC-1200) and obligate funds until a point that the last fully funded contract does not exceed the Parish Resource Concern Allocation. **District Conservationist will assure that the amount of EQIP Funds obligated does not exceed 100% of the Parish Allocation.** If the next application on the register exceeds the remainder of the Parish Resource Concern Allocation, the application is not eligible for approval unless additional funds are allocated from the State Office.

m) Field Offices will transmit Registers of Signed Contracts and Obligations of the second approval period to State Office. State Office will conduct a Parish Allocation Sweep of all unobligated funds.

CHAPTER I

B. Program Implementation

4. Parish Allocations Process

B. Program Implementation

4. Parish Allocations Process

a) Field and County Offices will be notified of the Parish EQIP Financial Assistance Allocation after State Office funds are allotted to individual Parish Allocations.

b) Parish EQIP Allocations will be based on a three element formula consisting of:

a. Base Allocation – A percentage of the State Allocation based on:
- No. of traditional agriculture production parishes

b. Statewide Workload – A percentage of the State Allocation based on:
- No. of Cropland Producers
- Ac. of Cropland
- No. of Livestock Producers (non-confined)
- No. of Hay Producers
- Ac. of Hayland
- No. of Dairy Producers
- Ac. of Pastureland
- No. of Poultry Producers
- No. of Farms
- Total EQIP Applications (’97 – ’02)
- Total EQIP Contracts Funded (’97 – ’02)

c. Special Resource Concerns – A percentage of the State Allocation based on:
- Irrigated Cropland
- Dairies
- Poultry Operations
- Highly Erodible Cropland

CHAPTER II

Application Ranking

In an effort to address the anticipated increase in the number of EQIP applications, Louisiana has developed the following EQIP Application Ranking Process. This process will streamline the workload requirements for field offices to rank applications and assign a funding priority. The process will allow field offices to rank applications based on practice(s) that the applicant is requesting financial assistance on with out having to go to the field for preliminary surveys or inventories. When an application is tentatively selected for funding, based on the priority ranking, a field inventory will then be conducted to verify need, eligibility, and quantity / cost.

FY-2003 Louisiana EQIP Ranking – Practice Benefits Matrix: Based on the Conservation Practice Physical Effects Table from Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide, this matrix list the conservation practices that may be utilized through EQIP in Louisiana to achieve benefits to targeted resource concerns. Each Targeted Resource Concern has a point value. If a practice provides benefits to a resource concern, as targeted in Louisiana, the practice receives that point value. The total points for a practice is the sum of point values for all resource concerns benefited.

Some practices that are eligible for EQIP cost share in Louisiana are facilitating practices and are not listed on the Practice Benefits Matrix. For example, Fence (382) is a facilitating practice for either Prescribed Grazing (528A) or Use Exclusion (472). Therefore, if an applicant is requesting cost share for Fence (382), the points that are assigned would be based on the benefits for the practice that fencing would be facilitating. Either Use Exclusion or Prescribed Grazing, which ever is applicable. The narrative in the plan/contract will narrate the purpose of the fence.

As footnoted on the Practice Benefits Matrix (*), all EQIP contracts that provide cost-share for Animal Waste Management Systems must include a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Points are assigned only when a CNMP is required. Also footnoted on the Practice Benefits Matrix (**), selected practice point values are multiplied by 2 due to the importance of the practice for treating water quality or soil erosion.

FY-2003 Louisiana EQIP Ranking Form: This form is to be completed for each EQIP applicant as indicated in the steps below. Field visits will not be required to conduct application rankings. However, field offices will be required to obtain pertinent information from the applicant. Such as practices for which cost-share is being requested and the purpose of the practices.

Step 1: The applicant signs up for EQIP and identifies the practice(s) for which he or she is requesting cost share and the purpose.

Page 1 – Ranking Form

Step 2: The field office completes the Applicant Information (name, address, etc.) on the Ranking Form. All cells are required entries.

Step 3: The field office completes Section A, Significant Application Evaluation Questions. Each question is answered either Yes or No. Yes = 1 point; No = 0 points. Some questions are two-part. Yes must be answered to both parts in order to get 1 point. A sub total of Section A is then summed from questions 1 – 5.

Step 4: The field office completes Section B, Practices Providing Environmental Benefits. List applicable benefiting practices and designated points from the Practice Benefits Matrix. Points can only be assigned for practices that are associated with requested cost-shared practices. **Example 1:** Cost share is being requested for Grade Stabilization Structure(s) (410). In Section B, list Grade Stabilization Structure (410), and assign 18 points. **Example 2:** Cost share is being requested for Dike (356) and Structure for Water Control (587). In this case, these two practices are facilitating practices for the purpose Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646). In Section B, list Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646) and assign 12 points.
A sub total of Section B is then summed from all benefiting practices.

Step 5: The field office completes Section C, Total Points. A total sum of Sections A and B is entered. **This is the ranking score for the application.**

Page 2 – Ranking Form

Step 6: The field office completes the Applicant Information (name, address, etc.) on the Ranking Form (same as page 1). All cells are required entries.

Step 7: The field office completes Section D, Cost Shared Practices Requested. This is for the purpose of documenting the practice(s) and the estimated extent that is being requested at the time of application. Any remarks that are pertinent to the application and may be useful during plan development can also be entered at the bottom of Section D.

Step 8: The applicant and Designated Conservationist reviews and signs Section E, Acknowledgement and Signatures.

FY-2003 LOUISIANA EQIP RANKING - Practice Benefits Matrix

Targeted Resource Concern	Water Quality	Soil Erosion	Water Quantity	Animal - Wildlife Habitat	Plant Sustainability	Air Quality	Points
PRACTICE	(5)	(4)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(2)	
Access Road (560)	X	X					9
Brush Management (314)				X	X		5
Composting Facility (317)	X					X	7
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) *	X	X	X	X	X	X	20
Cover & Green Manure Crop (340)	X	X					9
Critical Area Planting (342)	X	X					9
Field Border (386)	X	X		X			12
Filter Strip (393) **	X	X		X			24
Forest Harvest Trails & Landings (655)	X	X					9
Grade Stabilization Structure (410) **	X	X					18
Grassed Waterway (412) **	X	X		X			24
Heavy Use Area Protection (561)	X	X					9
Irrigation Land Leveling (464)	X	X	X				13
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447)	X		X				9
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch and Canal Lining (428)			X				4
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline (430) (land irrigation)			X				4
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline (430) (animal waste distribution)	X						5
Irrigation Water Management (449)	X	X	X				13
Land Smoothing (466)	X	X	X				13
Nutrient Management (590)	X				X		7
Pasture and Hayland Planting (512)	X	X					9
Pest Management (595)	X						5
Pond (378)	X	X	X	X			16
Precision Land Forming (462)	X	X	X				13
Prescribed Burning (338)				X	X		5
Prescribed Grazing (528A)	X	X		X	X		14
Residue Management, No-Till & Strip Till (329A)	X	X					9
Residue Management, Mulch Till (329B)	X	X					9
Residue Management, Ridge Till (329C)	X	X					9
Riparian Forest Buffer (391) **	X	X		X			24
Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646)	X		X	X			12
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (580)	X	X					9
Strip Cropping, Contour (585)	X	X		X			12
Strip Cropping, Field (586)	X	X		X			12
Terrace (600)	X	X					9
Tree / Shrub Establishment (612)	X	X		X			12
Use Exclusion (472)	X	X			X		11
Waste Storage Facility (313) **	X					X	14
Waste Treatment Lagoon (359) **	X					X	14
Waste Utilization (633)	X				X		7
Water & Sediment Control Basin (638)	X	X					9
Well Decommissioning (351)	X						5

* All EQIP Contracts that provide Cost-Share for Animal Waste Management Systems must include a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Points are assigned only when a CNMP is required.

** Points have been multiplied by 2 due to importance of the practice for treating water quality or soil erosion

FY-2003 LOUISIANA EQIP RANKING FORM

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Address: _____

Application No. _____ Farm No.: _____ Tract No.: _____

Land Use: _____ Application Acres: _____

A. Significant Application Evaluation Questions (For each question, YES = 1 point ; No = 0 Points)

(NOTE: Some questions are two-part. Yes must be answered to both parts in order to get 1 point)

		Points
1)	Are the offered acres within the drainage area of a stream segment or waterbody that is designated by the State Water Quality Management Plan (305(b) report) as "Not Fully Supporting" its designated use due to agriculture, AND, will the cost-shared treatment improve the water quality of runoff from the offered acres? YES: ____ NO: ____	
2)	Do the offered acres consist of a predominance of soil with a surface layer K factor equal to or greater than .43, AND, will the cost-shared treatment reduce soil erosion? YES: ____ NO: ____	
3)	Will the planned treatment assist the applicant in complying with Federal or State Environmental Laws? (Confined Annimal Feeding Operations ONLY) YES: ____ NO: ____	
4)	Are the offered acres within the drainage area of a scenic stream (that portion designated by the State as scenic) AND, will the cost-shared treatment reduce non-point-source pollution? YES: ____ NO: ____	
5)	Are the offered acres within a parish listed as significant Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Habitat, AND, does the cost-shared treatment include targeted practice(s) that will benefit the identified T&E habitat? YES: ____ NO: ____	
	Sub Total A	

B. Practices Providing Environmental Benefits

(List applicable benefiting practices and designated points from the Practice Benefits Matrix)

	Points
Sub Total B	

C. Total Points	**Total A + B**	

(Applicant Signature) (DATE)

(Designated Conservationist Signature) (DATE)

Privacy Act Statement: The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 522a). The authorities for requesting the information to be supplied on this form are: 16 U.S.C. 3801 et. Seq. (Food Security Act of 1985, as amended), and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The information requested is necessary for the evaluation of an application, development and implementation of a conservation plan as the basis for satsifying program eligibility and compliance requirements, and for providing technical, educational, or financial assistance under the previously mentioned authorities. Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to furnish correct , complete information will result in the withholding or withdrawal of such technical, educational, or financial assistance. Thsi information may be furnished to other USDA agencies, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice, or other State or Federal law enforcement agencies, or in response to orders of court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal.

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D. Cost-Shared Practices Requested

Conservation Practice (name and number)	Practice Extent

Remarks:

E. Acknowledgement and Signatures

I have applied for EQIP funding on the above practices. These practices are not part of my normal farming operation and I am not requesting EQIP Payments for practices currently within the lifespan of previous federal cost-share practice payments. I have reviewed and agree with the above ranking score for my EQIP Application. I acknowledge that this form is not an authorization for me to begin application of the requested conservation practices.

FY-2003 Louisiana
EQIP Ranking Form
Page 2

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Address: _____

Application No. _____ Farm No.: _____ Tract No.: _____

Land Use: _____ Application Acres: _____

**Supplemental Instructions for completing EQIP Ranking Form /
Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat /
Targeted Practices**

T&E Species	Practice Type [1/]			
	Erosion Control 2/	Waste Management 3/	Tree Planting 4/	Other
Louisiana black bear (Ursus americanus luteolus)			X	
Louisiana pearlshell mussel (Margaritifera hembeli)	X	X	X	
Louisiana heelsplitter mussel (Potamilus inflatus)	X	X	X	
Pink mucket pearly mussel	X	X	X	
Sturgeon, Gulf (Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotol)	X	X	X	
Tortoise, gopher (Gopherus polyphemus)				X [5/]
Turtle, ringed sawback (Graptemys oculifera)	X	X	X	
Woodpecker, red – cockaded (Picoldes decdrocopos boreslis)				X [6/]

1/ All points awarded according to specific practices and location of intentions (see attached maps). Intentions receive a maximum score of 15 points.

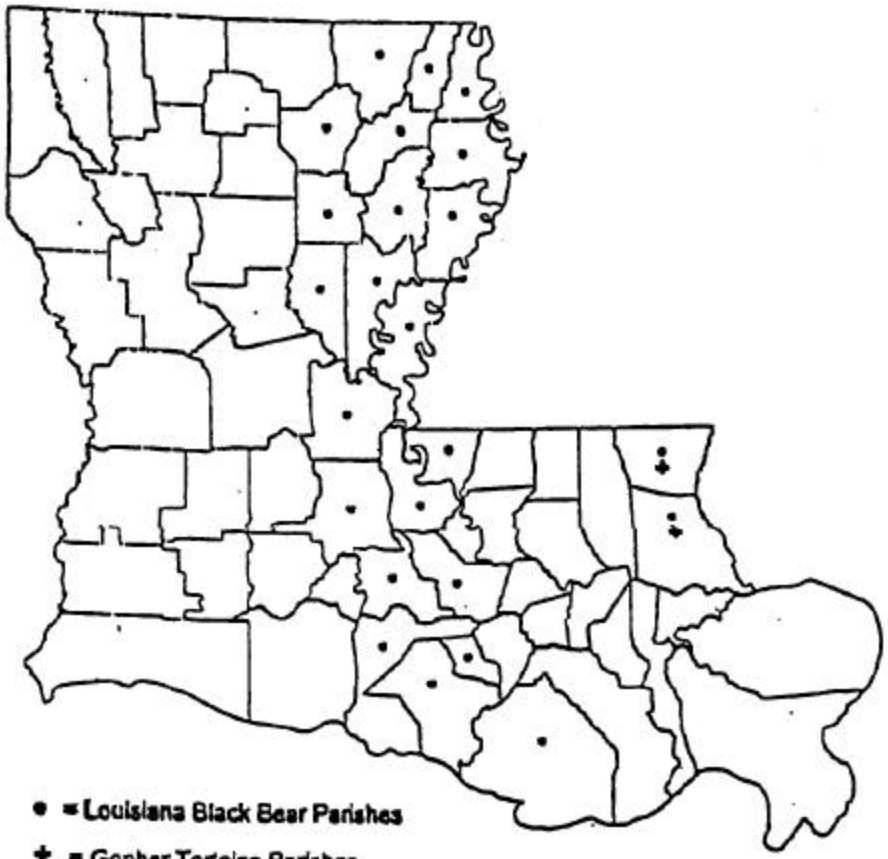
2/ Eligible Erosion Control practices include: Cover and Green Manure Crop, Critical Area Planting, Dike, Diversion, Riparian Forest Buffer, Fencing, Field Border, Filter Strip, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway, Residue Management (No Till, Ridge Till, Mulch Till), Irrigation Water Management, Sediment Basin, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Strip Cropping, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Precision Land Forming, and Land Smoothing.

3/ Eligible Waste Management practices include: Composting Facility, Roof Runoff Management, Watering Facility, Underground Outlet, Waste Storage Facility, Waste Treatment Lagoon, Waste Utilization, Livestock Well.

4/ Eligible Tree Planting Practices include: Riparian Forest Buffer, Tree and Shrub Establishment, Wetland Development or Restoration.

5/ Eligible Other Practices benefiting the Gopher Tortoise include: Field Border, Prescribed Burning.

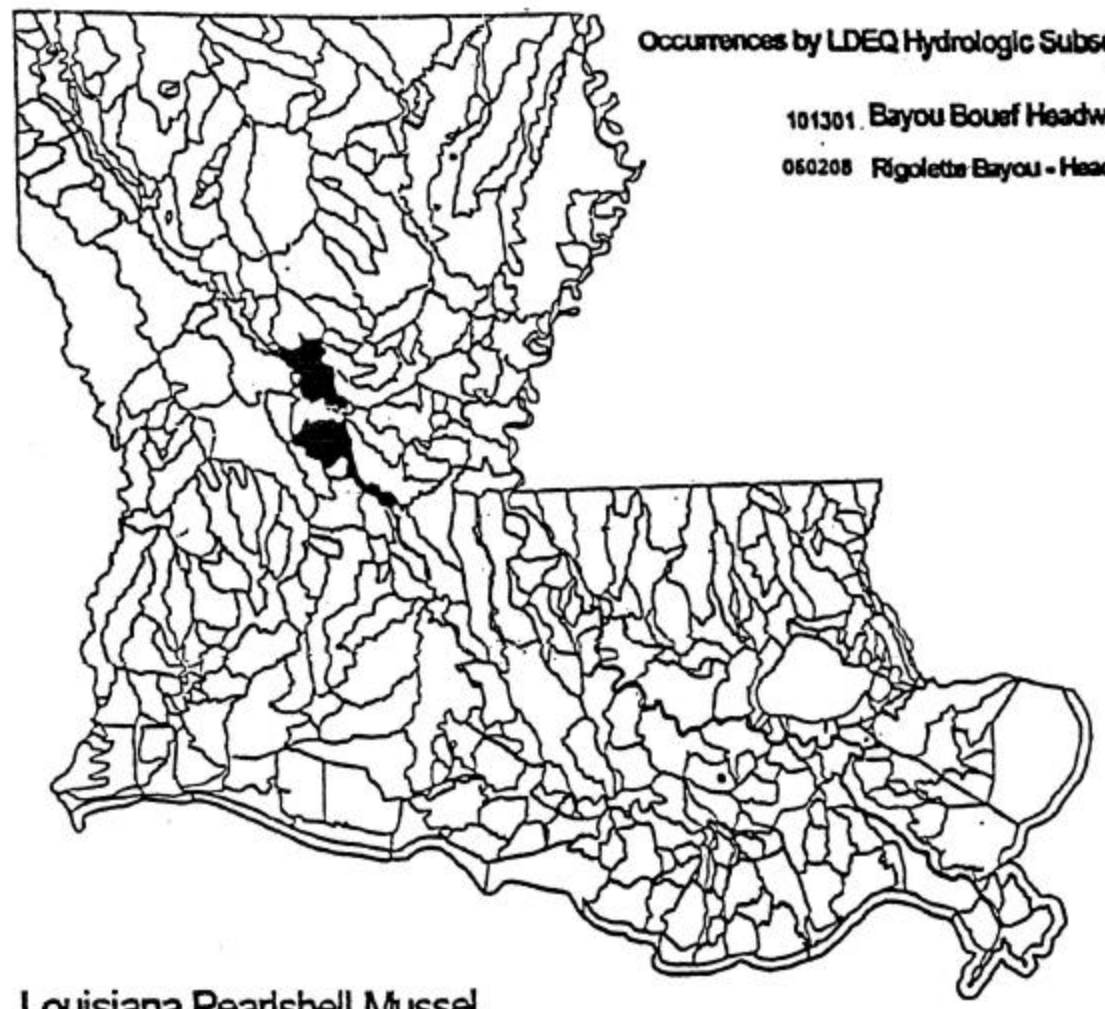
6/ **Eligible Other Practices benefiting the Red-cockaded Woodpecker include: Prescribed Burning (in pine stands greater than 30 years of age).**



● = Louisiana Black Bear Parishes

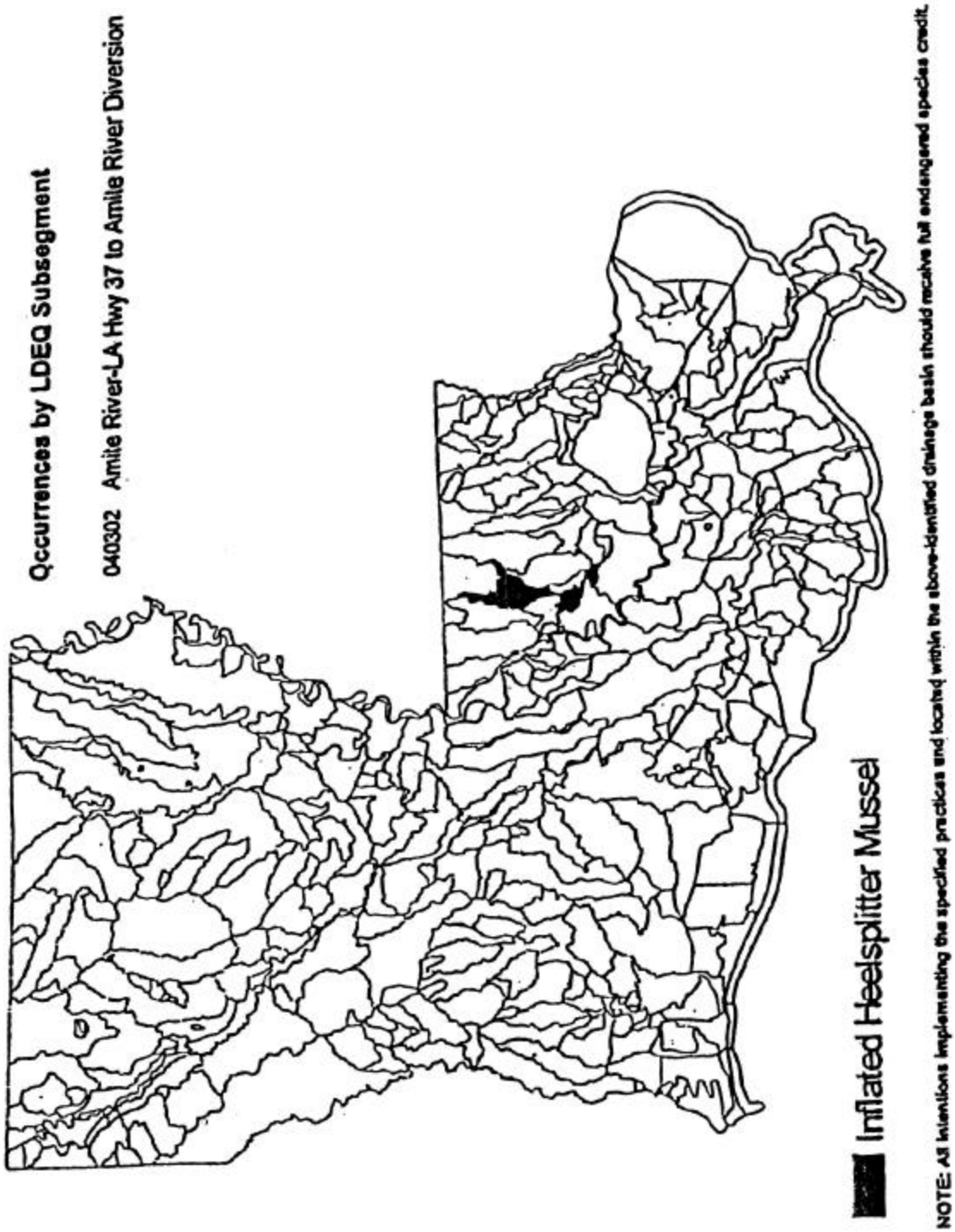
✚ = Gopher Tortoise Parishes

NOTE: All intentions (with specified practices) occurring within the above-identified parishes should be given full endangered species credit, except intentions located outside of the delta in Morehouse, Ouachita, Caldwell, Lasalle, and Catahoula parishes will not receive credit for the LA Black Bear.

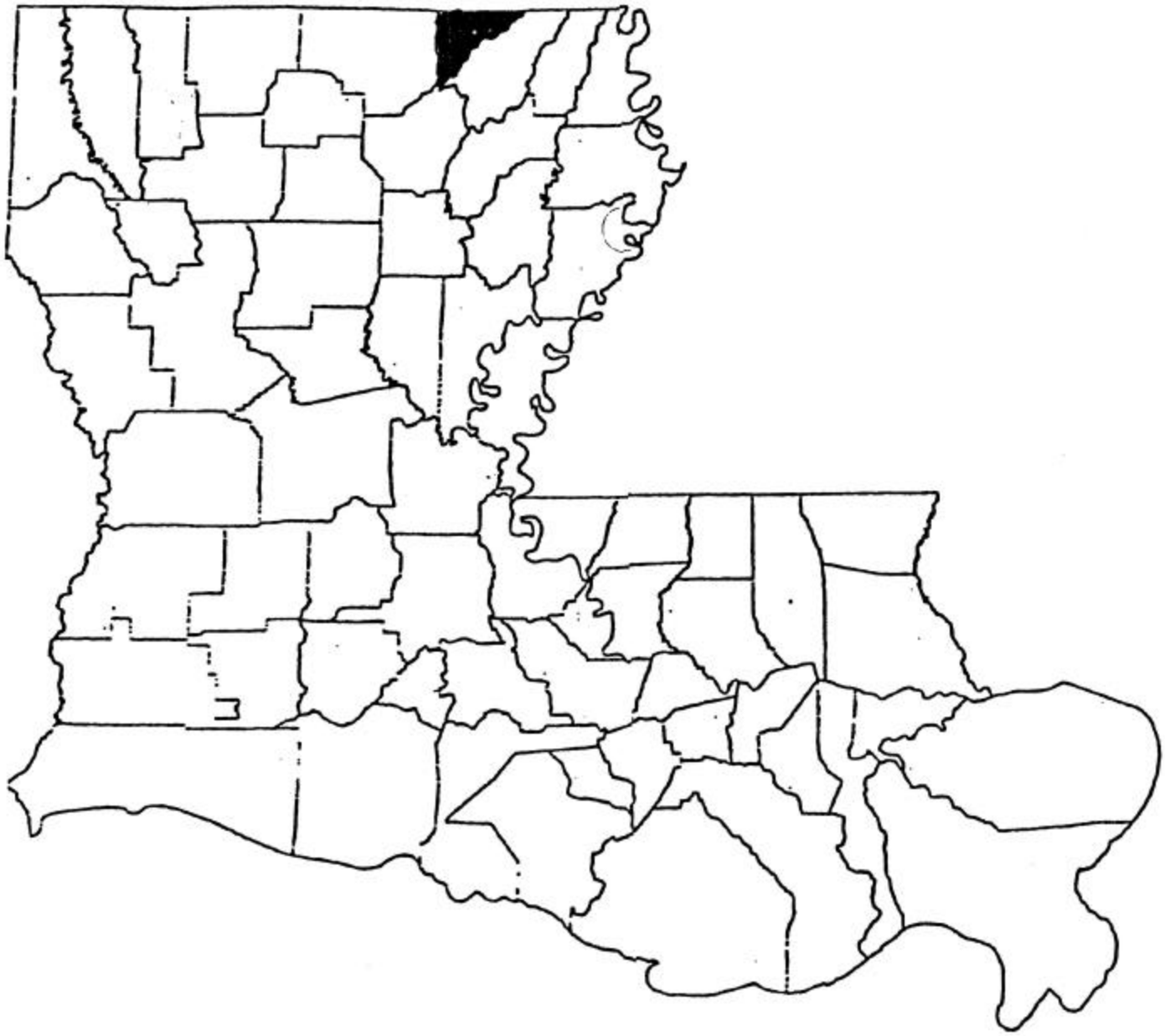


NOTE: All intentions implementing the specified practices and located within the above-identified drainage basins should receive full endangered species credit.

CAUTION: Hydrologic subsegments depicted on this map include portions of Avoyelles and St. Landry Parishes which should not receive endangered species credit.


Occurrences by LDEQ Subsegment
040302 Amite River-LA Hwy 37 to Amite River Diversion
Inflated Heelsplitter Mussel
NOTE: All intentions implementing the specified practices and located within the above-identified drainage basin should receive full endangered species credit.

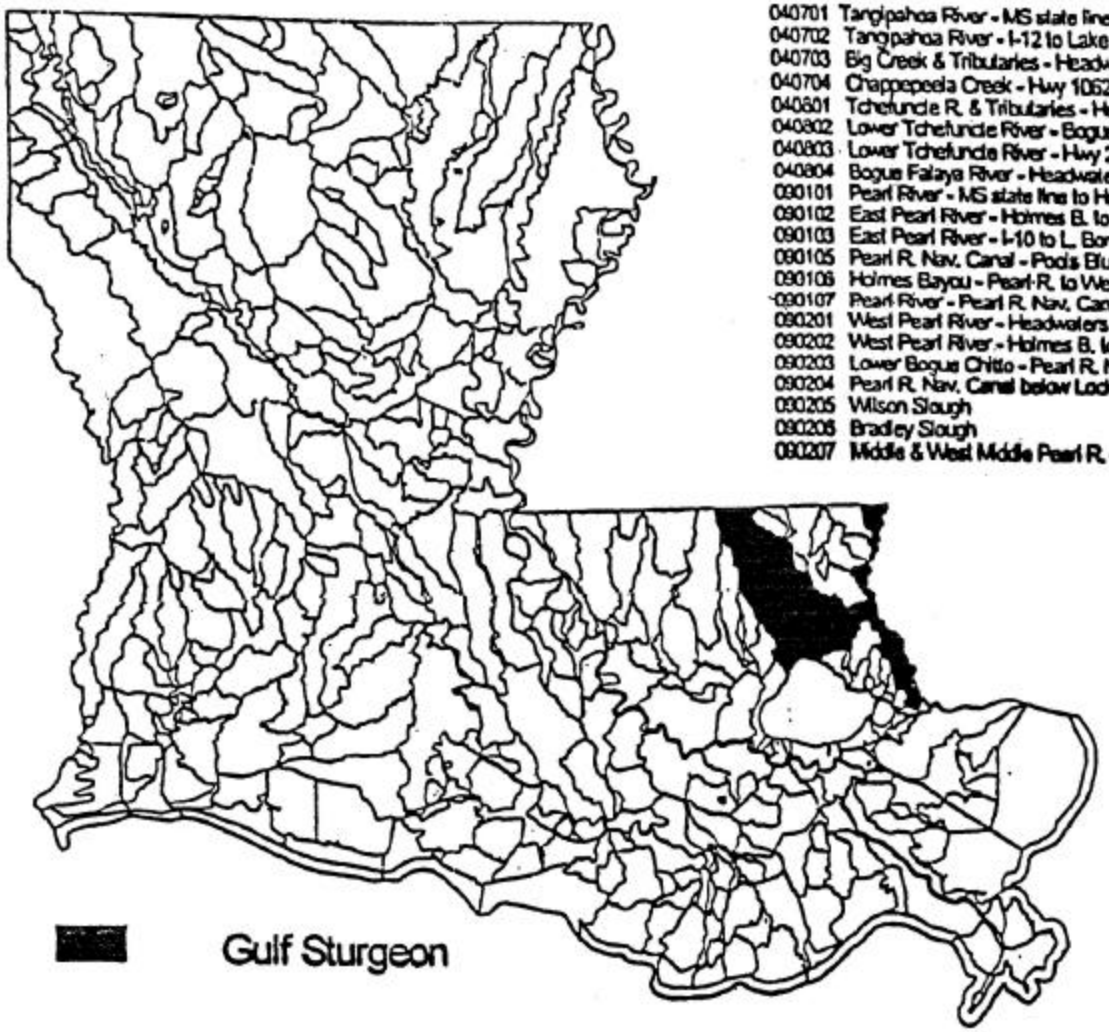
Pink Mucket Pearly Mussel



Small numbers of Pink Mucket Pearly Mussel found only in Bayou Bartholomew in Morehouse Parish.

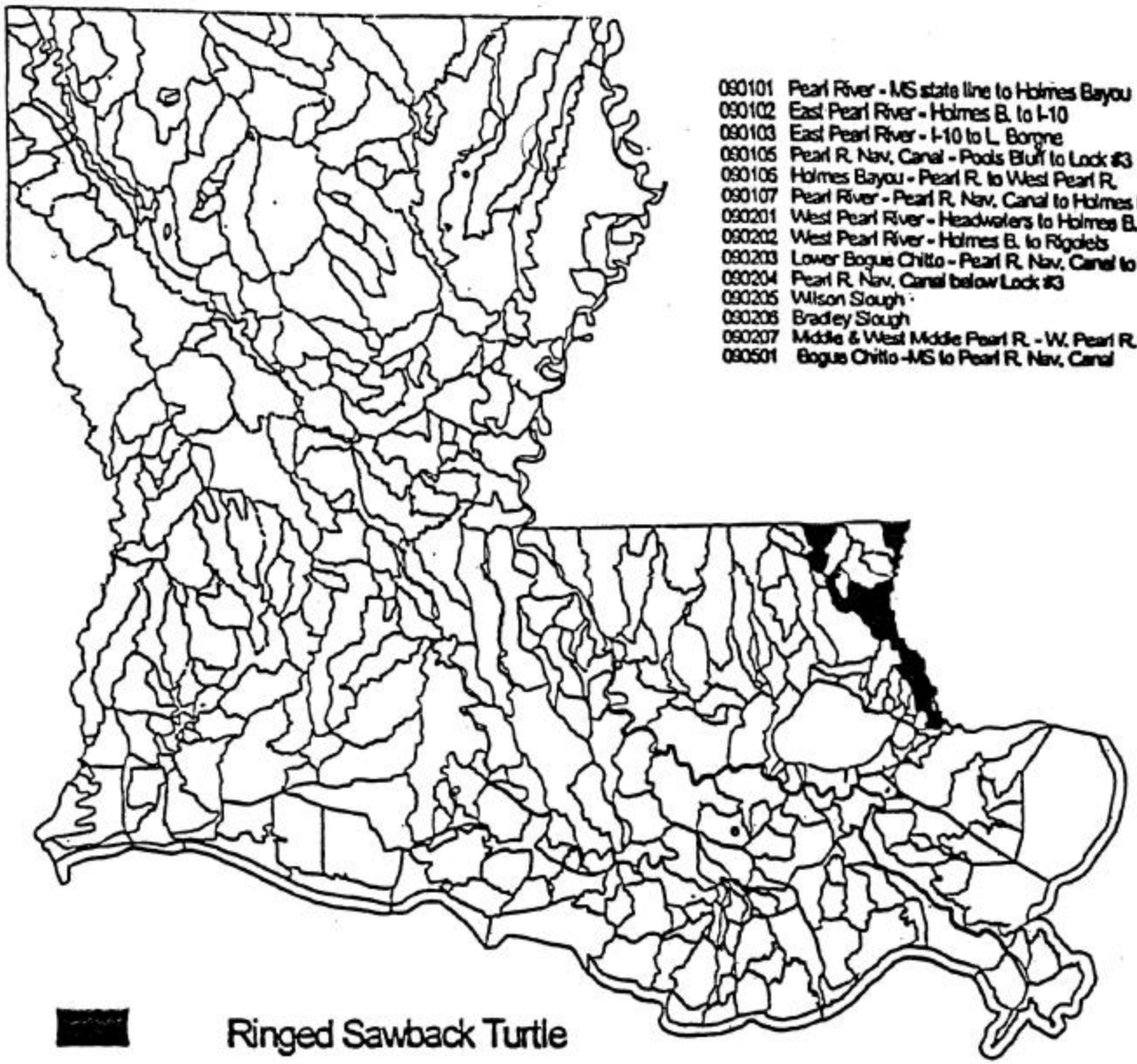
Occurrences by LDEQ Hydrologic Subsegment

040701 Tangipahoa River - MS state line to I-12
040702 Tangipahoa River - I-12 to Lake Pontchartrain
040703 Big Creek & Tributaries - Headwaters to Tangipahoa R.
040704 Chappepeela Creek - Hwy 1062 to Tangipahoa R.
040801 Tchefuncte R. & Tributaries - Headwaters to Bogue Falaya R.
040802 Lower Tchefuncte River - Bogue Falaya R. to Hwy 22
040803 Lower Tchefuncte River - Hwy 22 to L. Pontchartrain
040804 Bogue Falaya River - Headwaters to Tchefuncte R.
090101 Pearl River - MS state line to Holmes Bayou
090102 East Pearl River - Holmes B. to I-10
090103 East Pearl River - I-10 to L. Borgne
090105 Pearl R. Nav. Canal - Pools Bluff to Lock #3
090106 Holmes Bayou - Pearl R. to West Pearl R.
090107 Pearl River - Pearl R. Nav. Canal to Holmes B.
090201 West Pearl River - Headwaters to Holmes B.
090202 West Pearl River - Holmes B. to Rigolets
090203 Lower Bogue Chitto - Pearl R. Nav. Canal to Wilson Slough
090204 Pearl R. Nav. Canal below Lock #3
090205 Wilson Slough
090206 Bradley Slough
090207 Middle & West Middle Pearl R. - W. Pearl R. to Little Lake



NOTE: All intentions implementing the specified practices and located within the above-identified drainage basins should receive full endangered species credit.

Occurrences by LDEQ Hydrologic Subsegments



090101 Pearl River - MS state line to Holmes Bayou
090102 East Pearl River - Holmes B. to I-10
090103 East Pearl River - I-10 to L. Borgne
090105 Pearl R. Nav. Canal - Pools Bluff to Lock #3
090106 Holmes Bayou - Pearl R. to West Pearl R.
090107 Pearl River - Pearl R. Nav. Canal to Holmes B.
090201 West Pearl River - Headwaters to Holmes B.
090202 West Pearl River - Holmes B. to Rigolets
090203 Lower Bogue Chitto - Pearl R. Nav. Canal to Wilson Slough
090204 Pearl R. Nav. Canal below Lock #3
090205 Wilson Slough
090206 Bradley Slough
090207 Middle & West Middle Pearl R. - W. Pearl R. to Little Lake
090501 Bogue Chitto -MS to Pearl R. Nav. Canal

Ringed Sawback Turtle

NOTE: All intentions implementing the specified practices and located within the above-identified drainage basins should receive full endangered species credit.

▲ = Red-cockaded woodpecker

NOTE: Intentions located in the above parishes and implementing longleaf restoration, or pine forest disking and pine forest burning (in pine stands greater than 30 years of age) receive endangered species credit.

CHAPTER III

A. Cost-Share Rate and Incentive Levels

A. Cost-Share Rate and Incentive Levels

Practice Name	Unit	NTE / Contract	Minimum C/S (%)	Maximum C/S (%)	Max. Incentive ($ / Ac.)
Access Road (560)	ft.	$5,000	50	75	
Animal Trails and Walkways (575)	ft.	$5,000	50	75	
Brush Management (314)	ac.	-----			18 [2/]
Composting Facility (317)	no.	-----	65	75	
Contour Farming (330)	ac.	-----			5 [1/]
Cover & Green Manure Crop (340)	ac.	-----			20 [1/]
Critical Area Planting (342)	ac.	-----	25	75	
Dike (356)	ft.	$7,500	25	75	
Diversion (362)	ft.	$10,000	25	75	
Fence (382)	ft.	-----	50	75	
Field Border (386)	ft.	$5,000	25	75	
Filter Strip (393)	ac.	-----	25	75	
Forest Harvest Trails & Landings (655)	ac.	$10,000	25	75	
Forest Site Preparation (790)	ac.	-----	25	50	
Forest Stand Improvement (666)	ac.	-----	25	50	
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)	no.	$10,000	25	75	
Grassed Waterway (412)	ac.	-----	25	75	
Heavy Use Area Protection (561)	ac.	$10,000	50	75	
Irrigation Land Leveling (464)	ac.	$25,000	25	75	
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447)	no.	$25,000	25	75	
Irrigation Water Conveyance:					
Ditch and Canal Lining (428)	ft.	$25,000	25	50	
Pipeline (430)	ft.	$25,000	25	75	
Irrigation Water Management (449)	ac.	-----			6 [1/]
Land Smoothing (466)	ac.	$25,000	25	75	
Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)	ft.	-----	25	50	
Mulching (484)	ac.	-----	25	75	
Nutrient Management (590)	ac.	-----			5 [1/]
Pasture & Hayland Planting (512)	ac.	-----	50	75	
Pest Management (595)	ac.	-----			5 [1/]
Pipeline (516)	ft.	$10,000	50	75	
Pond (378)	no.	$7,500	50	75	
Pond Sealing or Lining (521)	no.	$7,500	50	75	
Precision Land Forming (462)	ac.	$25,000	25	75	

Prescribed Burning (338)	**ac.**	**-----**	**25**	**50**	

A. Cost-Share Rate and Incentive Levels (continued)

Practice Name	Unit	NTE / Contract	Minimum C/S (%)	Maximum C/S (%)	Max. Incentive ($ / Ac.)
Prescribed Grazing (528A)	ac.	-----			5 [1/]
Residue Management,					
No-till & Strip-till (329A)	ac.	-----			15 [1/]
Residue Management,					
Mulch-till (329B)	ac.	-----			10 [1/]
Residue Management,					
Ridge-till (329C)	ac.	-----			12 [1/]
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)	ac.	-----	25	75	
Roof Runoff Management (558)	no.	-----	25	75	
Sediment Basin (350)	no.	$7,500	25	75	
Shallow Water Management For Wildlife (646)	ac.	-----			5 [1/] [4/]
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (580)	ft.	-----	25	75	
Strip Cropping:					
Contour (585)	ac.	-----			5 [1/]
Field (586)	ac.	-----			5 [1/]
Structure for Water Control (587)	no.	$7,500	25	75	
Terrace (600)	ft.	-----	25	75	
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)	ac.	-----	25	50 [3/]	
Underground Outlet (with terrace) (620)	ft.	-----	25	50	
Use Exclusion (472)	ac.	$10,000	50	75	
Watering Facility (614)	no.	$7,500	50	75	
Waste Storage Facility (313)	no.	-----	65	75	
Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)	no.	-----	65	75	
Waste Utilization (633)	ac.	-----			10 [1/]
Water & Sediment Control Basin (638)	no.	$7,500	25	75	
Well (livestock well) (642)	no.	$7,500	50	75	
Well Decommissioning (351)	no.	$10,000	25	75	

Note: Specific parish cost-share rates will be established within the state minimum / maximum range by the Local Conservation Programs Committee (LCPC) and approved by the State Conservationist. Specific parish incentive levels will be established by the LCPC not to exceed the state maximum. Cost-Share rates for (LR / BF/R) Limited Resource Producers and Beginning Farmers or Ranchers will be established by the LCPC at no less than of 10% greater than the locally set cost-share rate not to exceed 90%.

[1/] Maximum of 3 years
[2/] Maximum of 1 year
[3/] For land use conversion 50% (from cropland or pastureland),
- For tree planting in Riparian Zone 75%
[4/] Not to exceed 100 acres per contract per year

CHAPTER III

B. General Practice Components

B. General Practice Components

A. Fertilizer and Liming - For any practices contained in this handbook for which cost-shares are authorized for fertilizer and/or lime, the quantity per acre and cost-share will be approved by the district conservationist in accordance with the following:

1. Where it is determined by the district conservationist that fertilizer and/or lime is needed for the successful establishment of the vegetative cover, it must be required.

2. Cost-shares may be approved for a quantity of plant flood and/or lime within the minimum and maximum application recommended by a soils test for establishment purposes for the area to be treated or, if a soils test is not available, the quantity shall be within a minimum and maximum application range established by the district conservationist in consultation with the state agronomist.

3. The minimum and maximum application range established shall be based on generally recognized soil deficiencies of the area according to soils test or experimental results.

4. Federal cost-sharing may be approved for nitrogen (straight or mixed) only when applied in connection with the establishment of a grass or small grain cover and then not to exceed 100 pounds of N per acre.

5. Federal cost-sharing may be approved for lime only when applied in connection with the establishment of a grass, legume, or small grain cover and then not to exceed 2 tons per acre.

   NOTE: *The application of 3 tons of boiler ash per acre will be considered the equivalent of one ton of agricultural limestone per acre.*

6. Cost-sharing shall not be allowed for rock or colloidal phosphate applied to alkaline soils. In areas of known or suspected alkaline soils, a current soils test of the area to be treated must be made and must show that the soil is acid (pH < 5.8) to be eligible for cost-sharing.

7. The application of 300 pounds of basic slag or rock phosphate will be considered the equivalent of 100 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate in meeting the total plant food requirements.

8. Rock phosphate must contain not less than 28 percent total phosphorus oxide ($P_2 O_5$) and must be ground fine enough for 85 percent to pass through a U.S. Standard No. 200 sieve (wet screening).

B. General Practice Components (continued)

9. Liming materials from ground dolomite or high calcium limestone, ground seashells, and aragonite are eligible. Ground dolomite, high calcium limestone, ground seashells, and aragonite must contain:

   a. At least 90 percent calcium carbonate equivalent.

   b. The following materials shall meet the following screen standards:

      1) Aragonite - Ninety percent shall pass through a ten mesh sieve and five percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

      2) Ground Limestone (including dolomite) - Ninety percent shall pass through a ten mesh sieve, fifty percent shall pass through a sixty mesh sieve, and twenty-five percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

      3) Ground Seashells - Fifty percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

10. Materials

    In accordance with General Manual, Section 120, Part 404, Subpart F, Part 404.58 Materials required, and the Conservation Programs Manual Part 515, Subpart J 515.115(h), the following is provided:

    a. New materials are to be used in all work installed, unless the contract specifically provides for the use of used materials.

    b. Used materials may be authorized if the criteria set forth in the National Engineering Manual, Part, Materials, is met. The determination that used materials meet NRCS requirements rests with the individual having job approval authority.

    c. Cost-sharing for used materials is permitted only if they are purchased by a producer for a specified practice. Cost-share is not allowed for used materials that the producer has on hand. Used materials are to be cost-shared on the basis of actual cost not to exceed the average cost of new materials.

    d. The producer will submit a signed, itemized receipt, which will include the type and value of materials used, including used materials.

B. General Practice Components (continued)

STATEMENT ON SEED SOURCES FOR NRCS COST-SHARE PROGRAMS IN LOUISIANA

For the purpose of pine seed sources for Louisiana, the State will be divided into North and South using the northern parish boundaries of Vernon, Rapides, and Avoyelles as the North-South separation.

The following are acceptable seed sources by pine species and hardwoods for EQIP cost-share plantings:

LOBLOLLY PINE — For north Louisiana, use Louisiana or East Texas seed sources.

- For areas north of I-20, seed sources from Ashley, Union, Columbia, Lafayette, and Miller Counties, Arkansas, are also acceptable.

SLASH PINE — For south Louisiana, use South Louisiana and Southeast Texas seed sources. Slash pine is not recommended for planting in North Louisiana

LONGLEAF PINE — Use local sources or south Georgia, south Mississippi, south Alabama or north Florida.

HARDWOODS — Use Louisiana seed sources where possible or use seed sources collected within a 150 mile radius of the planting site.

CHAPTER III

C. Cost-Share Practice Provisions

Access Road (560)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide access while controlling runoff to prevent erosion and maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice where travelways are needed in a planned land use area.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for broad-based dips, low water crossings, rolling dips, wing ditches, and erosion control of roadside ditches.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for road or trail construction or maintenance.

D. **Lifespan** - These practices must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The measures must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV; 560, Access Road; 468, Lined Waterway or Outlet.

1) Trees, stumps, brush, roots, weeds and other objectionable material shall be removed from the work area.

2) Disturbed area will be revegetated according to Critical Area Planting (Practice 342) specifications.

F. **Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $5,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Animal Trails and Walkways (575)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide or improve access to forage and water; reduce livestock concentrations; control livestock to permit proper grazing use and planned grazing systems; and improve grazing efficiency.

B. **Apply** this practice to marsh or coastal areas where access is limited for forage grazing.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for construction of animal trails and walkways on marsh lands where:

a. It is determined suitable and needed by the NRCS technician.
b. This practice is part of an overall conservation plan that protects soil, water, air, animal and plant resources.
c. The producer ***has valid permits*** (coastal use, Section 404, etc.) that are needed.
d. Recapping, as needed, on walkways that are at least 10 years old.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for reworking or capping of walkways constructed within 10 years.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 575, Animal Trails & Walkways; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $5,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Brush Management (314)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to improve or restore quality plant cover to:

1) reduce sediment and improve water quality

2) increase quality of desirable plants for livestock and wildlife

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land (non-cropped) were the need is determined by an NRCS technician.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - The lifespan for this practice is 10 years, annual treatment may be necessary However, ***incentive payments will be allowed only once on each contracted acre***.

E. **Specifications**

1) Chemical control methods according to the NRCS standards and specifications for Brush Management, Practice 314, are allowed.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $18.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payment will be allowed only once on each contracted acre. Maintenance will be required throughout the life of the contract.

Composting Facility (317)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce or eliminate water, land, or air pollution caused by agricultural wastes.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on farmland where agricultural waste from a farming operation constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for composting facilities that are needed as part of a system of the farming operation to manage agricultural wastes.

2) The waste to be composted must:

a. Be produced by the producer's farming operation

b. Not have been purchased or provided by outside sources

3) The producer may sell the composted waste material.

4) Cost-sharing shall be limited to the minimum size facility needed to solve the conservation problem.

5) Cost-sharing is not allowed for spreading.

6) The practice must be completed in accordance with the waste management plan.

7) Any installation adversely impacting historical sites or endangered species is not eligible for cost-sharing.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 15 years after the calendar year after the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 317, Composting Facility. Structural requirements must be in accordance with NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 313, Waste Storage Facility.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 65 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Contour Farming (330)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on sloping eligible cropland where needed to control soil and water loss.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.
2) Alignment with terraces and diversions is required where these practices are used.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for the crop year.

E. **Specifications** - Follow specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 330, Contour Farming.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed on the same acreage for a maximum of ***three*** years.

Cover and Green Manure Crop (340)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control erosion when the major crop does not furnish adequate cover; add organic materials to the soil, and improve infiltration, aeration, and tilth.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible cropland.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for the crop year as described in FOTG, Section IV; 340, Cover and Green Manure Crop.

E. **Specifications** - Follow specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 340, Cover and Green Manure Crop.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $20.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of ***three*** years.

Critical Area Planting (342)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce erosion and the pollution of land, water, or air from sediment of agricultural or silvicultural origin.

B. **Apply** this practice to critical areas (such as gullies, roadsides, field borders, and similar problem areas) on farms which are susceptible to erosion and/or where runoff carrying substantial amounts of sediment constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Grading, shaping and filling, the establishment (including minerals) of grasses (including filter strips), trees or shrubs, and similar measures which are practical for the solution of the problem.

b. For site preparation, planting, mulching, fertilizer and lime.

c. For protective fencing, if ***used primarily*** to solve the problem.

d. For installing runoff control measures on public roadsides only where such measures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution problem.

2) Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife and enhancing the appearance of the area when establishing the protective measures.

D. **Lifespan** - The acreage shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, 342-Critical Area Planting; and 484-Mulching.

2) Fencing - See Part I of the EQIP Handbook

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Dike (356)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect land against overflow or to regulate water.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land to control water for wildlife management purposes.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for clearing and in-place earth fill.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for the construction of dikes for purposes other than fish and wildlife management.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for the construction of dikes used exclusively for the development of Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646).

4) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for construction of dikes used for aquaculture (catfish, crayfish, or minnow production).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG; Practice 356, Dike; and Practice 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $7,500
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Diversion (362)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to divert excess water from one area for the safe disposal in other areas.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land subject to erosion from excess surface or subsurface water runoff where the problem can be corrected by such diversion facilities.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Diversions, ditches, dikes, or subsurface drains where necessary for the proper functioning of the diversion.

b. Installation of structures such as pipe, chutes, underground outlets, or other outlets, if needed for proper functioning to a ditch or dike, for more even flow, or to protect outlets from erosion.

c. Necessary leveling and filling to permit installation on an effective system.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for ditches or dikes designed to impound water for later use, or which will be a part of a regular irrigation system.

3) A protective outlet or waterway which is installed solely as an outlet for a diversion system and serves no other conservation purpose would be cost-shared as a component of this practice.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 362 Diversions.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $10,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Fence (382)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to facilitate the application of conservation practices that treat the soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resource concerns.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land to subdivide grazing lands to facilitate the management of grazing systems; to protect treated critical areas from harmful grazing by domestic animals and/or wildlife; to exclude grazing animals from areas that should be protected from grazing; and to restrict access to applicable facilities (i.e. ponds and waste management facilities).

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for interior fences, unless the intended purpose is for use exclusion, critical area treatment, or applicable facility protection. Temporary fence will only be cost-shared when being applied in conjunction with critical area treatment.
2) Boundary fences may be eligible, as determined by the NRCS designated conservationist, if:
   - The fence is an integral part of a conservation system, such as a planned grazing system that facilitates improved management of grazing land, or protects certain areas from livestock when it is necessary for proper use of the area,
   - The area adjacent to the boundary fence is vital to the success of the conservation management system,
   - The primary purpose is not to separate ownership or exclude livestock from transportation networks, residential, commercial or industrial areas.
3) Cost-sharing will ***not*** be approved for the replacement or repair of existing fencing.
4) Cost-sharing is **not** authorized for property line fences
5) Cost-share rates are based on fence designs that will meet the minimum requirements listed in the 382 Fence standards and specifications in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for 20 years or until the purpose of the fence has been met under critical area treatment. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 382, Fence; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

* F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates
- Batteries are not an eligible cost-share item. Solar accessories are not an eligible cost-share item unless the solar component is part of the energizer unit.

Field Border (386)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control erosion, protect edges of field, and provide wildlife food and cover.

B. **Apply** this practice at field edges, especially edges of crop fields.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, planting seeds, seedlings, and fertilizer.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Species planted and rates must comply with FOTG, Section IV; 386, Field Border.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $5,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Filter Strip (393)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff or waste water.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible lands to reduce pollution and protect the environment.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, shaping, seedbed preparation, planting, seeds, fertilizer and lime.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for herbicides used to maintain vegetative cover, minerals for enhancing production, streambank stabilization.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years if planted to grasses or 15 years if planted to trees or shrubs following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG; 393, Filter Strip.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to allow for the removal of forest products while minimizing on-site and off-site damage to the resources.

B. **Apply** this practice to forest land to maintain site productivity, control sheet and rill erosion, and enhance water quality.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for the installation of waterbars.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for the construction of skid trails and landings.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Place waterbars on abandoned roads, skid trails, and firebreaks where surface water runoff may be concentrated and cause erosion of the unvegetated soil.

2) Follow specifications in Practice (655) NRCS FOTG, Section IV.

3) Disturbed area will be revegetated according to Critical Area Planting (Practice 342) specifications.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $10,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Forest Site Preparation (490)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish a stand of trees for regeneration while considering environmental needs.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland suitable for regeneration of a stand of trees for multipurpose forestry benefits.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan is required in all cases to be eligible for cost-share funds. Cost-share is limited to site preparation required for the regeneration of trees for the production of forest products where the potential productivity of the site meets or exceeds established minimum standards. Payment for this practice will be withheld until tree/shrub establishment is completed for the entire field.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Natural regeneration

1. Reducing or eliminating competing vegetation, including unmerchantable or undesirable trees and brush.

2. Creating soil conditions suitable for the natural establishment of seedlings representing the desired tree species. Seed sources must be adequate before site preparation is performed. Seed trees will be left until the area is regenerated.

3. Cost-share is authorized for one additional treatment on the area originally site prepared, if uncontrollable circumstances occur, such as a poor seed crop, and natural regeneration fails to become established to the required stocking level.

b. Artificial regeneration

1. Site preparation of land occupied largely by unmerchantable trees and brush, only where it is essential to permit planting desirable tree species. Technical assistance must be used to determine the suitability of the land for site preparation and the measures necessary to prevent the degradation of the site by soil erosion.

3) Cost-share funds are not authorized for:

a. Site preparation for ornamental Christmas trees or orchard trees.
b. Fencing
c. Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction.

4) The area must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Controlled grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the Forest Management Plan.

5) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and locally registered and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state requirements and policies.

6) Consideration must be given to protecting the resource base and the environment.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 1 year following installation and establishment. Cost-share funds must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Chemical Application for Site Preparation: Herbicides used in this practice must be labeled for forestry use and rates per acre must be approved by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry before application. Minimal acceptable rates per acre to various herbicides will be on file at the local LDAF office.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to release seedlings from competing vegetation, improve understory forage production aesthetics, wildlife habitat, recreation and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice if needed, to acres converted from pastureland and agriculture land to release seedlings from competing vegetation.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan developed by the NRCS is required to be eligible for cost-share funds. Cost-share funds are limited to the release of seedlings for the primary purpose of eliminating competing vegetation where the site meets or exceeds the established minimum standards, on all land to trees.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Releasing desirable seedlings from competing vegetation.

- Herbicide treatment must be completed during the active growing season of the targeted species, but no later than October 1 of the year following the previous planting season.
- Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings on all land during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.

3) Cost-shares are not authorized for:

a. Repeated prescribed burning on the same acreage.

b. Fencing

c. Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction.

4) Stand must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the forest management plan.

5) Improvements should be done in a way that preserves or improves the environment, maintains or enhances wildlife habitat and aesthetics.

6) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and locally registered. They must be applied according to authorize registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state policies and requirements.

D. Lifespan: This practice must ne maintained for a minimum of 10m years following the calendar year of installation, cost-share funds *must be refunded* if practice is destroyed during its lifespan.

E. Specifications:

Release: Broadcast by ground or aerial methods for the purpose of releasing planted seedling from over-topping competition, or to establish a stand of trees through natural regeneration while considering environmental needs.

F. Technical Responsibility: NRCS

G. Maximum Federal Cost-Share:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Grade Stabilization Structure (410)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish the grade and control erosion in natural or artificial channels, to prevent the formation or advance of gullies, and to enhance environmental quality and reduce pollution hazards.

B. **Apply** this practice to specific problem areas on farms where runoff of substantial amounts of sediment or runoff containing pesticides or fertilizers constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. For grade stabilization structures such as: earth embankments; mechanical spillways; full-flow or detention type structures or side-inlet structures installed to lower the water from a field elevation, a surface drain, or a waterway to a deeper channel outlet. (NOTE: Must have minimum of 1 foot over fall)

b. Only if the measures will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.

c. For installing sediment retention structures on public roadsides only where such structures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution or conservation problem.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Irrigation structures which are part of a distribution system for irrigation water.

b. Structures designed to control the rate of flow or to regulate the water levels in channels (refer to Practice 587).

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 410, Grade Stabilization Structure; and 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $10,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Grassed Waterway (412)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce existing erosion and the pollution of water on land from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land needing permanent sod waterway to safely convey excess surface runoff water in a manner that will reduce erosion.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, grading, shaping, filling, establishing permanent vegetative cover, and mulching. Also cost-sharing is authorized for subsurface drains that are necessary for proper functioning of the waterway.

2) The cover may consist of sod-forming grasses, legumes, mixtures of grasses and legumes, or other types of vegetative cover that will provide the needed protection from erosion.

3) Close-sown small grains, or annuals, may be used for temporary protection if followed by eligible permanent vegetative cover established by seeding or natural revegetation.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of ten years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - Grassed waterways will be constructed to meet applicable standards and specifications contained in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, 412, Grassed Waterway, and 484, Mulching.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to stabilize frequently and intensively used areas to improve water quality and/or prevent erosion.

B. **Apply** this practice to livestock operations on areas frequently and intensively used by animals by establishing vegetative cover, by surfacing with suitable materials, and/or by installing needed structures.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for eligible areas on livestock operations only, where it is determined suitable and needed by NRCS and is part of an overall conservation plan that protects soil, water, air, animal and plant resources. Cost-sharing is also authorized for fencing, if needed to restrict livestock traffic to the treated area (See Fence (382)).

Examples:
- Alleys that are used to move dairy animals from pasture to milking parlor.
- Foundations (pads) that are planned in conjunction with Trough or Tank (614).

2) Conservation plans must address the proper management of animal waste deposited within the treated area(s). Runoff of animal waste will be collected and treated through an animal waste treatment system or routed through a designed buffer that will properly filter animal waste prior to entering streams or water bodies.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 561, Heavy Use Area Protection, and, if applicable, 382, Fence.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $10,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Irrigation Land Leveling (464)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide more effective use of precipitation and irrigation water, facilitate water conservation, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where reshaping of the surface to planned grades is needed to permit the application of needed soil and water conservation practices for water management, and water conservation.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for land currently being irrigated and for the purpose of water conservation.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for water leveling.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized **only** for land that has been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Cropland fields that were historically planted to rice **are also** authorized for cost-share. Applicants must verify, by field, that the irrigation system was in place for 2 of the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts, records, or other documents. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 464, Irrigation Land Leveling.

2) For land that is in Rice production, see Louisiana Bulletin No. 210-2-1 for special needs determination, survey, design, and construction check procedures.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $25,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve farm irrigation water supplies and water quality by collecting water that runs off the field surface for reuse on the farm.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land that is currently under irrigation where water conservation is needed.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized **only** for:

a. Components including ditches, pipelines, pumps, and structures that are part of a complete conservation plan for irrigation.

b. Land that has been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Cropland fields that were historically planted to rice **are also** authorized for cost-share. Applicants must verify, by field, that the irrigation system was in place for 2 of the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts, records, or other documents. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

c. "On Farm" tailwater recovery systems. The irrigation tailwater must be collected in on farm return channels, regulating pit or other means without allowing discharge into the public drainage system. One exception would be the case where the farm is located at the extreme upper end of a public drainage system. In this instance the public drainage could be utilized as the return conveyance mechanism, provided the public authority allows necessary modifications to the drain to allow the landowner to capture and store the tailwater. Direct modifications to public drainage systems are **not** eligible for cost-share.

d. Tailwater recovery systems that have the capability to collect, store, and reapply the irrigation tailwater from one irrigation set. The primary method for temporary storage of the tailwater is an irrigation pit or regulating reservoir. In rice production, other methods of temporary storage may be utilized such as using fallow cuts or managing the planting dates to allow the tailwater from some cuts to be re-lifted on other cuts at the time they are being discharged. Methods of temporary storage will be properly designed and documented in the conservation plan narrative.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Reorganizing a system if the primary purpose is to bring additional land under irrigation.

b. Portable and flexible pipe, cleaning a ditch, or installations primarily for the farm operator's convenience.

c. Reorganizing a temporary irrigation system.

d. Restoring a system which has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance during periods of non-use.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: Federal cost-sharing will be applicable only when the tailwater recovery irrigation system is accomplished by following a complete detailed plan approved by, and performed under the supervision of, a technician of the NRCS. The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance (Pipeline); 388, Irrigation Field Ditch; 587, Structure for Water Control; or 428, Irrigation Water Conveyance (Ditch and Canal Lining).

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $25,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Irrigation Water Conveyance (428 & 430)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve irrigation water, improve water quality, control erosion, and reduce the pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to *reorganize* a permanent existing system. (Permanent existing systems include wells or other sources of water with an existing delivery system of metal pipe and/or series of irrigation canals and ditches). To qualify, the practice must be on land currently under irrigation for which an adequate supply of suitable water is available, on which irrigation will be continued, and on which a significant soil or water conservation problem exists. Land irrigated from one or more systems of interconnected "on-the-farm" ditches, pipelines and other structures and appurtenances are eligible. This may include conversion of surface irrigation ditches to underground irrigation pipelines along with fittings. This practice is also applicable for distribution of waste as part of a total waste management system.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for *reorganizing* permanently installed systems that will remain on the farm for the lifespan established, and is in a plan or a portion of a plan approved by NRCS for reorganizing an irrigation system.

   a. Irrigation pipelines, as specified in NRCS Practices 430AA, 430DD, 430EE, and 430FF, are eligible for cost-share assistance.

   b. Cost-sharing for sprinkler systems is limited to permanent mainlines.

   c. Other required components must be carried out in other years with or without cost-sharing.

   d. Ditch and canal lining as specified in NRCS practices 428A, 428B, and 428C.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized **only** for land that has been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Cropland fields that were historically planted to rice **are also** authorized for cost-share. Applicants must verify, by field, that the irrigation system was in place for 2 of the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts, records, or other documents. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

   a. Reorganizing a system if the primary purpose is to bring additional land under irrigation.

   b. Portable and flexible pipe, cleaning a ditch, or installations primarily for the farm operator's convenience.

c. Reorganizing a temporary irrigation system.

d. Installations to convert an existing sprinkler or overhead system to a gravity system.

e. Restoring a system which has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance during periods of non-use (such as rotation cycle for rice crops).

f. A supply ditch bringing water to or carrying water through the farm. (Pipe lines or ditches from a well owned by the producer to fields where he is interested in the crops, in a capacity other than as a water lord, will not be considered as supply ditches).

g. Cooling systems.

4) Cost-sharing is authorized for necessary components of a total waste management system.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - Federal cost-sharing will be applicable only when the reorganization of the irrigation system is accomplished by the following a complete detailed plan approved by, and performed under the supervision of, a technician of the NRCS. The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline; 388, Irrigation Field Ditch; 587, Structure for Water Control; or 428, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Ditch and Canal Lining.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

Ditch and Canal Lining

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $25,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Pipeline

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $25,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Irrigation Water Management (449)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to implement rice land water management techniques and improve the quality of discharge water entering receiving bodies of water, that in addition, will prevent the discharge of water containing high concentration of agricultural pollutants.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland planted to rice where irrigation flood water is used and discharged into water systems as part of the farming operation causing water quality problems.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized **only** for land that has been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Cropland fields that were historically planted to rice **are also** authorized for cost-share. Applicants must verify, by field, that the irrigation system was in place for 2 of the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts, records, or other documents. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for one of the following components:
   a) Option 1: Water planting in previous crop residue
   b) Option 2: Retention of flood water in a closed levee system for a specified period during and after soil disturbing activities
   c) Option 3: Clear water planting into a prepared seedbed

3) Specifications as listed in Paragraph D of this practice must be followed in order to earn cost-share assistance.

3) Cost-sharing for the rice land water quality improvement practice may be approved for no more than three years.

4) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally and locally registered and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal and state policies and requirements.

D. **Specifications**

Option 1: Water planting in previous crop residue

1) Maintain previous crop residue on the soil surface.

2. Apply a recommended herbicide before planting to kill volunteer vegetation.

3) Close levees and apply flood water.

4) Hold water until rice is planted.

5) No disking of residue, water leveling, or any other mechanical soil disturbing activity is allowed.

Option 2: Retention of flood water in a closed levee system for a specified period during and after soil disturbing activities.

1) Close levees after disking or other mechanical soil disturbing activities in the fall.
2) All water leveling or other mechanical soil disturbing activities conducted after flooding must be done at least 15 days prior to the release of water to allow for settling of suspended materials.
3) After draining floodwater, apply a contact herbicide to kill winter and spring vegetation, if needed.
4) Apply floodwater and plant rice.

Option 3: Clear water planting into a prepared seedbed

1) Close levees if disking or other soil disturbing activities are done in the fall.
2) If water leveling or other soil disturbing activities are performed, the water must be held for at least 15 days to allow for settling of suspended materials.
3) Prepare a dry seedbed in the spring, close levees immediately, and apply floodwater.
4) Plant rice and release clear water.

E. Maximum Federal Cost-Share

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $6.00 per acre.
2) Incentive payments are limited to a maximum of three years.

Land Smoothing (466)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide for more effective use of precipitation and irrigation water, facilitate water conservation, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where depressions, mounds, and other surface irregularities interfere with the application of needed soil and water conservation and management practices.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for those lands eroding above the tolerance level (T) where the result, due to Land Smoothing, would be a significant reduction (at least 30%) in predicted erosion rates.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the design criteria for the irrigation portion of the standards and specifications in Practice 466 of the NRCS FOTG, Section IV.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $25,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide for safe disposal of runoff from other conservation practices or natural flow concentrations to control erosion.

B. **Apply** this practice to specific problem areas on farms where substantial amounts of sediments constitutes a significant pollution hazard, caused by flow concentrations creating gullies.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. For lined waterways or outlets needed to safely convey water from other conservation practices to a lower stable outlet.

b. Only if the measure will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.

c. For vegetation establishment on disturbed areas.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guides, Section IV; 468, Lined Waterway or Outlet.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Mulching (484)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve moisture; prevent surface compaction or crusting; reduce runoff and erosion; control weeds; and establish plant cover.

B. **Apply** this practice on soils subject to erosion that have been disturbed during installation of other EQIP practices.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing - is authorized for labor and materials as specified in NRCS practice 484.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained for 1 year or until permanent vegetation is established.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice shall be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG, and Practice 484 Mulching.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Nutrient Management (590)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to supply plant nutrients for optimum forage and crop yields, minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater, and to maintain or improve chemical and biological condition of the soil.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where plant nutrients are applied.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

2) Incentive payments for Nutrient Management (590) is not allowed on the same acreage where incentive payments are made for Waste Utilization (633).[1/]

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 590, Nutrient Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is **July 1st**.*

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

[1/] Where organic by-products (agricultural wastes) are used as a soil amendment either alone or in conjunction with inorganic fertilizer, refer to Waste Utilization (633) guidelines contained in this handbook.

Pasture & Hayland Planting (512)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect the soil and reduce the pollution of water, air, or land from agricultural or silvicultural non-point sources and establish high-quality forage.

B. **Apply** this practice to establish permanent vegetative cover only when converting cropland to pasture or hayland:

1) That is subject to water erosion

2) To improve water quality

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for fertilizer and lime, eligible seed, stolons, or green hay, seedbed preparation, and planting.

2) Cost-shares are authorized only for conversion of cropland to pasture. Cropland for this purpose is defined as land cropped at least two of the previous five years to a commodity crop (not ryegrass or other annuals planted for grazing purposes).

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Clearing of rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded

b. Fencing

c. Converting land from a stand of manageable or partially manageable timber or pulpwood to a grass or legume cover. A "manageable stand" is defined as a stand of trees that has adequate stocking for management, good health, vigorous growth, and has not reached its optimum value.

d. Converting native pasture or range to improved pasture

4) The acreage seeded must be protected from grazing by domestic livestock until the stand is well established. Prescribed Grazing (528A) should be practiced.

5) Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.

6) The practice must be established by carrying out the needed operations as prescribed by the standards and specifications in Practice 512 of the FOTG.

D. **Lifespan** - The vegetative cover shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the cover during its lifespan.

E. ***Seed***

1) Seed must meet specifications as listed in Practice 512, Standards and Specifications of the FOTG.

2) Cost-shares are applicable on a clean seed basis and limited to seeding within the ranges set forth in the Practice 512, Standards and Specifications of the FOTG.

3) Inoculation of legume seed is required.

F. **Fertilization**

1) Federal cost-sharing may be approved for an application of fertilizer within the ranges established by the Practice 512, Standards and Specification, in accordance with the requirements set forth under Part I of EQIP Handbook.

2) Up to 60 days is allowed to apply nitrogen fertilizer on fescue and other winter cover grasses.

G. **Liming**

1) For lime specifications, refer to the Louisiana Agricultural Liming Materials law

2) Liming materials should be applied and worked into the soil well in advance or at the time of seeding

H. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Pest Management (595)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to develop a pest management program that is environmentally acceptable, consistent with crop production goals, and reduce pesticide pollution of surface and groundwater.

B. **Apply** this practice to all land uses where pest control is needed.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

2) Incentive payments are only eligible on acres fro which pesticides are being applied.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 595, Pest Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***July 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

Pipeline (516)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to convey water for livestock.

B. **Apply** this practice where needed to effectively manage livestock.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for pipe and appurtenances, excavations, back-fillings and vegetation.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for boring under roads. Applicable permits must be acquired by the applicant.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized for pipe diameters of 4" or less.

4) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for wells or pumps.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG; Practice 516, Pipeline; and Practice 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $10,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Pond (378)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide water for livestock and/or wildlife and to maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas that provide water at locations which will achieve erosion control and prevent further or stop water quality impairment through better distribution of grazing or proper rotation of grazing and results in a better grassland management.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Construction of ponds, including fencing, if needed, to protect the facility from pollution by livestock.

b. Refurbishment of existing ponds to meet NRCS standards if they were not originally constructed under a USDA program or, if technical assistance was not provided in accordance with NRCS standards at the time of construction. Additionally, if a pond has exceeded the lifespan of the practice and was constructed under a USDA program or technical assistance was provided in accordance with the standard that was in effect at the time of construction, the pond is eligible for cost share and technical assistance under EQIP

b. Necessary seeding or sodding. Dams and earth spillways must be seeded or sodded with perennial vegetation, whether or not cost-share is provided.

c. In a continuous grazing system, a producer may be eligible for cost-share on a pond or well. However, the amount cost-shared for the well cannot exceed the cost of a pond.

d. In a rotational grazing system, cost-share is allowed for a pond or well. Cost-share for pond or well will be only limited to the cost shown in the statewide cost list.

2) No cost-sharing is authorized under this practice for any installation which is:

a. PRIMARILY for the use of recreation, fire control, dry lot feeding, corrals, barns, or crop or orchard spraying.

b. For the purpose of providing water for the farm or ranch headquarters.

3) Ponds constructed or refurbished for the purpose of wildlife watering facilities will be eligible for cost-share assistance when there is no other water source such as a lake, pond, or stream within one-half mile of the proposed site.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**:

1) Ponds - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 378, Pond. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Fencing - Fencing must be constructed according to specifications in NRCS Practice 382.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $7,500
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates
- Excavated ponds will have a minimum volume of 1000 cubic yards and a maximum volume of 2000 cubic yards for excavated and embankment ponds. A waiver to the minimum volume can be granted by the area engineer on a case by case basis and must be in writing.

Pond Sealing or Lining (521)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce seepage losses in ponds to an acceptable level.

B. **Apply** this practice where water loss from a pond through leakage will be of such proportion as to prevent the pond from fulfilling its planned purposes or where leakage will damage land or plant resources, cause waste of water, or environmental problems.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Ponds that meet NRCS standards and specifications for: 359, Waste Treatment Lagoons; 313, Waste Storage Facilities; 378, Ponds.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for ponds built under any USDA program within the previous 10 years.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for 15 or 20 years depending on the method of sealing following the calendar year of installation (see EQIP Manuel for details). Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 521, Pond Sealing or Lining.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $7,500
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Precision Land Forming (462)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide more effective use of precipitation, reduce erosion, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where reshaping of the surface to planned grades is needed to permit the application of needed soil and water conservation practices for water management, erosion control, and water quality.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for land where reductions in slopes are needed for erosion control and water quality.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for those lands eroding above tolerance level (T) where the results, due to Precision Land Forming, would be a significant reduction (at least 30%) in predicted erosion rates.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 462, Precision Land Forming.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $25,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Prescribed Burning (338)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control undesirable vegetation, prepare sites for planting or seeding; control plant disease; reduce fire hazards; improve wildlife habitat, forage production and forage quantity; and facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible lands where needed to facilitate the management of plants and animals for environmental purposes.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. site preparation for tree planting - refer to Practice 490, Forest Site Preparation.

b. site preparation for seeding where cultivation is not required.

c. controlling plant competition, undesirable vegetation, and excess accumulation of fuel.

d. promote the growth of desirable forage for wildlife and livestock.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice has a 5 year lifespan and is limited to one time during the life of a 5-year contract or twice during the life of a 10-year contract.

E. **Specifications** - This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG, Practice 338, Prescribed Burning.

NOTE: Producer needs to be notified of their responsibility to obtain "burn plan" as defined by state or local laws.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Prescribed Grazing (528A)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to prolong life of desirable forage species, protect soil, and protect water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible pastureland, hayland, rangeland and native pasture.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for 5 years following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 528A, Prescribed Grazing; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***July 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

Residue Management (329)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce sheet and rill erosion, maintain or improve soil organic matter content and tilth, conserve soil moisture, and provide food and cover for wildlife.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land for environmental benefits.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained during the cropping year as described in NRCS FOTG, Section IV, Practice 329.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with applicable NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG:

No-till and Strip-till	329A
Mulch-till	329B
Ridge-till	329C

(**NOTE**: *The earliest date to report this practice is **March 1st**; for fall planted crops, the date is **September 1st**.)*

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- No-Till and Strip-Till (329A)
  - Incentive payment only, not to exceed $15.00 per acre.
- Mulch-Till (329B)
  - Incentive payment only, not to exceed $10.00 per acre.
- Ridge-Till (329C)
  - Incentive payment only, not to exceed $12.00 per acre.
- Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of 3 years

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to remove, reduce, or buffer the effects of nutrients, sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants prior to entry into surface water and ground water recharge systems.

- To create shade to lower water temperatures which will improve habitat for aquatic organisms.
- To provide a source of detritus and woody debris for aquatic organisms and wildlife habitat.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land adjacent to permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, rivers, ponds, wetlands, and areas with groundwater recharge.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for Forest Site Preparation (490), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Filter Strips (393), and Forest Stand Improvement (666).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG:

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Forest Site Preparation (490)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
Filter Strip (393)
Forest Stand Improvement (666)

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

a. Pine

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

b. Hardwood

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

c. Direct Seeding

(1) Hardwood

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

2) Forest Site Preparation (490)

a. **Silvicultural Treatments for Artificial Regeneration:**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

(1) Light - Limited site preparation to prepare a seedbed favorable to artificial regeneration accomplished by disking, brush cutting, mowing, and/or scalping or sub-soiling. Chemical deadening if less than 300 diameter inches per acre or chemical application for herbaceous weed control.

(2) Medium - Site preparation for artificial regeneration accomplished by chopping. Chemical application by ground or aerial methods. Injection with greater than 300 diameter inches per acre.

(3) Prescribed Burn - Site preparation for artificial regeneration applicable to areas completely cut-over with sufficient fuel to carry a fire of such intensity that no other method is necessary. This includes areas damaged by natural disasters such as bark beetle infestations, tornadoes, hurricanes, ice and hail, and areas where all merchantable timber has been removed.

(4) Release - Chemical deadening if less than 300 diameter inches per acre. If greater than 300 diameter inches per acre. Broadcast applications by ground or aerial methods for the purpose of releasing planted seedlings from over topping competition See release on previous page for artificial regeneration.

- Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings in pastures/fields during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.
- Prescribed burns may be performed in conjunction with any of the above site preparation methods.
- The cost-share rates for the methods described above include the cost of prescribed burning performed in conjunction with the components.
- Cost-share payments are limited to one site preparation component on the same acreage.

Roof Runoff Management (558)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to prevent runoff from flowing across concentrated waste areas and barnyards to reduce pollution and erosion, improve water quality, and protect the environment.

B. **Apply** this practice where roof runoff is included in an overall plan for a waste management system.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only where roof runoff management is part of an overall plan for a waste management system.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for erosion resistant channels, subsurface drain with rock filled trench, gutters, downspouts, and appurtenances, and outlets.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of its installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 558, Roof Runoff Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Sediment Basin (350)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to preserve the capacity of reservoirs, ditches, canals, diversions, and waterways; to trap sediment; and to reduce or abate pollution by providing basins for deposition and storage of silt, sand, agricultural wastes and other detritus.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where treatment of the sediment source is impractical and where a sediment basin offers the most practical solution to the problem.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:
   a. excavation, structures, and rip-rap.
   b. necessary seeding or sodding.
   c. fencing needed to protect the facility from livestock.

D. **Lifespan** - The sediment shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Sediment Basin - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 350, Sediment Basin; 378, Pond; and 410, Grade Stabilization Structure. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.
2) Fencing - Fencing must be constructed according to specifications in NRCS Practice 382.
3) Structures - Structures must be constructed in accordance with standards and specifications in NRCS Practice 410, Grade Stabilization Structure.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $7,500
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

1) Sediment Basin
2) Fencing - Refer to Practice 382, Fence in the EQIP Handbook.
3) Seeds - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.
4) Fertilizer and Lime - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.
5) Other materials as needed and recommended by the NRCS technician.
6) The applicant must furnish sales receipts and/or other supporting evidence showing cost of materials and other charges.

Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to keep, make, or improve habitat for waterfowl, fur bearers, and other wildlife.

B. **Apply** this practice to agricultural lands and moist soil areas where water can be impounded or regulated by diking, ditching, or flooding. Levees must be closed immediately following harvest in the fall and must remain closed until March 1.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice must be maintained for the season as defined in NRCS FOTG, Section IV, Practice 646.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 646, Shallow Water Management for Wildlife.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***April 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payments only, not to exceed ***$5.00 per acre and not to exceed 100 acres per contract per year***.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of 3 years.

Streambank & Shoreline Protection (580)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to stabilize or protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries or excavated channels.

B. **Apply** this practice to natural or excavated channels where the streambanks are susceptible to erosion and to shorelines where the problem can be solved with relatively simple structures or vegetation.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. removal of fallen trees, stumps, and debris
b. removal of trees and brush that adversely affect the growth of desirable bank vegetation
c. reduction of the slope of streambanks to provide a suitable condition for vegetative protection or the installation of structural measures.
d. placement of rock with filter blanket
e. deflectors constructed of posts, piling, fencing, rock or other materials
f. fencing for protection from damage from livestock or vehicular traffic
g. vegetation for erosion control
h. bulkheads
i. revetments
j. groins
k. vegetation

D. **Lifespan** - This system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must be constructed to meet the requirements of the standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical guide, Section IV; 580, Streambank & Shoreline Protection.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Strip Cropping: Contour (585)

Strip Cropping: Field (586)

A. **The purpose** of these practices is to reduce erosion on cropland and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** these practices on sloping cropland where it is an essential part of the cropping system to effectively reduce soil and water losses.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - These practices must be maintained for 5 years following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: These practices will be carried out in accordance with applicable NRCS standards and specifications; 585, Contour Strip Cropping; 586, Field Strip Cropping; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of 3 years.

Structure for Water Control (587)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control the stage, discharge, distribution or delivery of water in open channels or water use area.

B. **Apply** this practice wherever a permanent structure is needed as in integral part of an existing water system, or Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646).

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for applicable structures for systems identified in paragraph "B" above.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for irrigation structures which are part of a distribution system ***unless*** it specifically is installed for improving irrigation efficiency or water conservation.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for culverts installed for the purpose of providing vehicle or equipment access.

4) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for interior structures for water management for rice or aquaculture production.

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in Section IV or the NRCS Technical Guide, Structure for Water Control 587, and Critical Area Planting, 342.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $7,500
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Terrace (600)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide control of erosion on cropland and reduce pollution of water, land, or air from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland subject to erosion from water runoff.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Terraces and the necessary leveling and filling to permit installation of an effective system.

b. Removal of turnrows, or earth embankments and necessary leveling and filling when it is determined that the removal of such objects or leveling and filling are necessary to the establishment of an effective terrace system.

c. Materials and installation of pipe and other outlets.

d. Converting the present system to a new system ***ONLY*** if the present system is not serving its intended conservation purpose. Cost-sharing is not authorized for either of the following:

(1) to maintain the present system

(2) if the sole purpose is converting the present system because of a change in cropping patterns or equipment the farmer used.

e. Seed, fertilizer and lime

2) Contour farming must be practiced on the area to be terraced. Contour farming is authorized for incentive payment only.

3) Necessary protective outlets or grassed waterways must be installed, vegetated, and stabilized before terraces are constructed.

4) The removal of turnrows and earth embankments should be considered necessary if they interfere with the establishment of vegetative waterways, obstruct or prevent obtaining terrace and row alignment, or prevent the construction of uniform terrace channels.

5) Obstructions to be removed must be leveled and smoothed to give even, uniform slopes and must not require a depth of cut and fill to strip all topsoil from any appreciable area.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV; 600, Terrace; 466, Land Smoothing (Land to Be Terraced); and 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish a stand of trees in a timber planting that will enhance environmental benefits.

B. **Apply** this practice for the conversion of pastureland or cropland to trees.

C. **Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- improve environmental benefits to an acceptable level
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- be included in the approved tree planting plan

D. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan developed by NRCS is required to be eligible for cost-share funds.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for site preparation on cropland or pastureland, only where it is essential to permit planting desirable tree species. Technical assistance must be used to determine the suitability of the land for site preparation and the measures necessary to prevent the degradation of the site by soil erosion.

3) Cost-share funds are ***not*** authorized for:

- Requests for planting trees on more than 1,000 acres
- Planting orchard or ornamental trees
- Planting for Christmas tree production
- Fencing
- Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction

4) Plantings must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the forest management plan.

5) In the event of severe competition from weeds or brush, measures should be taken to release the planted stock.

6) Seedlings will be one-year nursery stock. Cuttings should be taken from 1-3 year old stock. Seedlings must conform to minimum standards established by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

7) There will be a survival of at least 350 well distributed pine seedlings, or 200 hardwood seedlings or cuttings per acre after the first growing season.

8) On-site inspections will be made ***during*** the planting operations to determine compliance of the planter and quality of the seedlings.

9) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state, and locally registered, and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state requirements and policies.

10) Consideration must be given to protecting the resource base and the environment.

11) Seed sources - Refer to Exhibit 1, Part I of Chapter II of the EQIP Handbook.

E. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of establishment. Cost-share funds must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during this lifespan.

F. **Specifications**

1) Pine seedlings shall be planted on a proven and acceptable spacing which will yield an initial density of 600 to 900 trees per acre. Hardwood species and cypress shall be planted on a proven and acceptable spacing which will yield an initial density of 250 to 550 trees per acre.

2) Seedling roots and cuttings must be kept cool and moist until planted. Seedlings may be either machine or hand planted. An ample hole should be made to hold all roots without crowding or J-rooting and the soil should be packed firmly around the roots. A minimum amount of root pruning is allowed on hardwood seedlings. Pine seedlings should be set at the same depth in the soil as they were prior to lifting from nursery beds. Hardwood seedlings should be set in the soil with the root collar at or slightly below the ground line. Cuttings should be a minimum of 20 inches in length, planted with no more than 2 inches exposed above the ground line.

3) Chemical application for site preparation: Herbicides used in this treatment must be labeled for forestry use and rates per acre must be approved by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Minimal acceptable rates will be on file at the local LDAF offices. Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings in pastures/fields during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.

4) Sub-soiling as a component to silvicultural treatment must be performed when determined needed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and included in the forest management plan. Sub-soiling of land prior to planting shall be on centers spaced the same as tree planting space to a minimum depth of 12 inches, be performed between July 1 - December 31, and a minimum of 30 days prior to planting. Seedlings, cuttings, and seed will be planted in the furrows made by sub-soiling.

5) Plant and Release: Trees can be planted followed by an approved herbicide application considered safe for the release of newly planted pine. Herbicide recommendations are to be made by a person knowledgeable in forest herbicide use and all labels must be followed. The herbicide treatment must be completed during the active growing season of the targeted species, but no late than October 1 or the year following the previous planting season.

G. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- For land use conversion (cropland or pastureland planted to trees)
  - **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
  - **Maximum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- For tree planting in riparian zone
  - **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
  - **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

H. **Forest Site Preparation (490)** - Refer to practice 490

Underground Outlet (620)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to dispose of excess water from terraces, diversions, surface drains, or other concentrations without causing damage by erosion or flooding.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where: excessive surface water needs to be disposed of; a buried outlet is needed for diversions, terraces, water and sediment control basins, or similar practices; and where surface outlets are impractical because of stability problems, climatic conditions, land use, or equipment traffic.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for earthwork, pipe, and vegetation.

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 620, Underground Outlet.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Use Exclusion (472)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect, maintain or improve the quantity and quality of plant and animal resources and maintain cover to protect the soil resource.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where forest reproduction, soil hydrologic values, stream water quality, existing or planted vegetation can be damaged by livestock.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for construction of fencing where livestock are present and have the potential to damage plant resources.

2) Cost-sharing is *not* authorized for replacing or repairing existing fences.

D. **Lifespan** – The practice must be maintained for the life of the contract.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 472, Use Exclusion; 472 & 382, Fence; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

E. Maximum Federal Cost-Sharing

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $10,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Watering Facility (614)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide watering facilities for livestock at selected locations that will protect vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing or through better grassland management for erosion control.

B. **Apply** this practice where there is a need for new or improved watering sites to permit the desired level of grassland management, to reduce health hazards for livestock, and to reduce livestock waste in streams.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for trough, tanks, foundations, and appurtenances that are a necessary part of a grazing management plan.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** allowed under this practice for wells, pumps or pipelines (Refer to Practice 516 and 642).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 614, Watering Facility; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG. If foundations (pads) are planned, reference NRCS standards and specifications; 561, Heavy Use Area Protection; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $7,500
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Waste Storage Facility (313)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide temporary storage of solid and/or liquid agricultural waste to prevent the pollution of water, land, and air.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on eligible land where agricultural waste from the farm constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) The practice is designed to provide facilities for temporary storing and handling agricultural waste and controlling surface run-off water to permit the recycling of the waste onto the land in a way that will abate pollution that would otherwise result from existing farming operations.

2) Cost-sharing is limited to solving the pollution problems where the farming operation causing pollution from agricultural waste is part of a total farming operation.

3) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Only for waste storage facilities, waste storage tanks, waste stacking facilities, waste settling facilities, and composting facilities, land shaping, and similar measures needed as part of a system on the farm to manage agricultural wastes, and ***only*** for agricultural wastes produced ***on*** the applicant's farming operation.

b. For:

(1) Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the system, such as buried main lines to carry waste from the storage facility to the field.

(2) Fencing and vegetative cover, including mulching needed to protect the facility.

(3) Leveling and filling to permit installing an effective system.

4) Cost-sharing is authorized only if the facilities will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving the soil or water quality.

5) All state laws, rules and regulations governing the use of waste storage facilities shall be strictly adhered to. The farm owner will be responsible for securing necessary permits where required.

6) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized:

a. For waste facilities to store, handle, or dispose of chemicals used in the farming operation. Chemicals include insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other chemicals used in the farming operation.

b. For:

(1) Portable pumps or other portable equipment (such as honey-wagons, manure spreaders, portable big gun irrigators)

(2) Buildings or modifications of buildings.

(3) Spreading agricultural wastes on the land.

c. For the portion of the cost of agricultural waste structures installed under or attached to buildings which serve as part of the building or its foundation.

d. For agricultural waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.

e. For installation primarily for the operator's convenience.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 313, Waste Storage Facility; 317, Composting Facility, and 382, Fence. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Where recommended by the supervising technician, the minimum and maximum application range of fertilizer shall be 36 to 80 pounds of plant food (nitrogen, phosphate, potash) per acre.

3) Fencing

a. Where a fence substantially meets or exceeds these minimum requirements, the NRCS technician may approve the fence as meeting the practice requirements.

b. See Part I of the EQIP Handbook.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Fencing: See Practice 382, Fence of EQIP Handbook

2) Seeds: See Part I of EQIP Handbook [1/]

3) Fertilizer: See Part I of EQIP Handbook

4) Waste Storage Ponds:

a. New Facility

- **Minimum** - 65 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

* cubic yards of earth moved in excavating the storage pond and a borrow area, if required.

b. Modified Facility:

- **Minimum** - 65 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

c. Earthen Liner:

1) Placement and Compaction.

2) Loading and hauling of approved earthen liner material from a remote on farm borrow area

3) Purchase and delivery of off farm approved earthen liner material

4) Addition of Bentonite

d. Waste Distribution Equipment:

See Irrigation Water Conveyance 428 & 430 in EQIP Handbook.

[1/] ***Annuals are eligible for cost-sharing only when used as nurse crops in conjunction with perennials.***

Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to biologically treat organic waste, reduce pollution and protect the environment.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on eligible land where agricultural waste from the farm constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) The practice is designed to provide a lagoon for storing, treating, and handling agricultural waste and controlling surface runoff water to permit the recycling of the waste onto the land in a way that will abate pollution that would otherwise result from existing farming operations.

2) Cost-sharing is limited to solving the pollution problems where the farming operation causing pollution from agricultural waste is part of a total farming operation, and ***only*** for treating agricultural wastes produced ***on*** the applicant's farming operation.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized:

a. Only for aerobic and anaerobic lagoons, and similar facilities as well as diversions, channels, waterways, outlet structures, plumbing, pipelines, land-shaping, and similar measures needed as part of a system on the farm to manage agricultural wastes.

b. For:

(1) Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the system such as: permanently installed pumps, and buried mainlines to carry waste from the lagoon to the field.

(2) Fencing and vegetative cover, including mulching needed to protect the facility.

(3) Leveling and filling to permit installing an effective system.

4) Cost-sharing is authorized only if the waste treatment lagoon facilities will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving the soil or water quality.

5) All state laws, rules and regulations governing the use of waste treatment lagoons shall be strictly adhered to. The farm owner will be responsible for securing necessary permits where required.

6) Dams or levees must be seeded or sodded. Cost-shares are authorized.

7) All work, including the delivery ramp, must be completed prior to paying cost-shares earned.

8) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized:

a. For waste facilities to store, handle, or dispose of chemicals used in the farming operation. Chemicals include insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other chemicals used in the farming operation.

b. For:

(1) Portable pumps or other portable equipment (such as honey-wagons, manure spreaders, portable big gun irrigators.

(2) Buildings or modifications of buildings.

(3) Spreading agricultural wastes on the land.

c. For the portion of the cost of agricultural waste structures installed under or attached to buildings which serve as part of the building or its foundation.

d. For agricultural waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.

e. For installation primarily for the operator's convenience.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 359, Waste Treatment Lagoon; 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Fencing

a. Where a fence substantially meets or exceeds these minimum requirements, the NRCS technician may approve the fence as meeting the practice requirements.

b. See Practice 392, Fence in the EQIP Handbook

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 65 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

1) Earthen Liner:

   a. Placement and Compaction. Existing on site material –

   b. Loading and hauling of approved earthen liner material from a remote on farm borrow area

   c. Purchase and delivery of off farm approved earthen liner material

   d. Addition of Bentonite

2) Fencing - See Practice 382, Fence of the EQIP Handbook

3) Seeds - See Part I of EQIP Handbook [1/]

4) Fertilizer - See Part I of EQIP Handbook

5) Waste Distribution Equipment:

   a. See Irrigation Water Conveyance 428 & 430 in EQIP Handbook

8) Spoil Spreading

[1/] ***Annuals are eligible for cost-sharing only when used as nurse crops in conjunction with perennials.***

Waste Utilization (633)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to safely use agricultural wastes to provide fertility for crops, forage or fiber production; to improve or maintain soil structure; and to protect water resources.

B. **Apply** this practice on soils and vegetation suitable for the use of waste as a fertilizer.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided by incentive payments only.

2) Incentive payments are authorized for removal of supernate (liquid) which is a recurring requirement to maintain the water level at the design elevation of the facility.

3) Incentive payments are authorized for waste utilization as part of the total waste management system where a new facility for waste management is constructed (waste treatment lagoon, waste storage facility, or composting facility).

4) Incentive payments are authorized for the proper use of agricultural wastes generated ***on*** or ***off*** the applicant's farming operation, provided the applicant has control of the land where wastes are to be spread, and waste utilization is part of the conservation plan. Application rates shall be based on soil sampling of fields where agricultural wastes are applied. Additionally, agricultural wastes shall be sampled and analyzed well in advance of land application so that test results will be available to use in calibrating the spreader. Local county extension agents are available to assist with soil and waste sampling and spreader calibration.

5) Incentive payments are ***not*** authorized for waste utilization that is part of waste management system where the producer has previously received federal financial assistance for the installation of a waste treatment lagoon, waste storage facility, or composting facility.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice will be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must meet the requirements of the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 633, Waste Utilization.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $10.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce watercourse and gully erosion, trap sediment, reduce and manage onsite and downstream runoff, and improve downstream water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where watercourse and gully erosion are a problem, runoff and sediment damage land and improvements, and where adequate outlets are available or can be provided.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for earthwork, vegetation, and outlets.

2) This practice must be part of a conservation plan that includes conservation practices to control sheet and rill erosion.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in Section IV or the NRCS Technical Guide; 638, Water and Sediment Control Basin; 342, Critical Area Planting; 620, Underground Outlet; 600, Terraces.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $7,500
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

1) Seeds, Fertilizer, and Lime - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.

2) Outlet - Refer to Practice 620, Underground Outlet.

Well (642)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide water for livestock, facilitate the proper use of vegetation on rangeland and pasture, and maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to installations that provide water at locations which will achieve erosion control and prevent further or stop water quality impairment through better distribution of grazing or proper rotation of grazing and results in a better grassland management.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:
   a. Construction or deepening of wells, only where this is the least cost alternative for providing livestock water ***(refer to {378} Pond or {614} Trough or Tank)***.
   b. Pumping equipment (except for artesian wells).
   c. In a continuous grazing system, a producer may be eligible for cost-share on a pond or well. However, the amount cost-shared for the well cannot exceed the cost of a pond.
   d. In a rotational grazing system, cost-share is allowed for a pond or well. Cost-share for pond or well will be only limited to the cost shown in the statewide cost list.
2) Where ground water quality is such that corrosion of well screens or points is serious, suitable corrosion resistant metals must be used.
3) The well must furnish an adequate supply of water.
4) **No cost-sharing is authorized under this practice for any installation which is:**
   a. PRIMARILY for the use of recreation, wildlife, dry lot feeding, corrals, or barns.
   b. For the purpose of providing water for the farm or ranch headquarters.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Water Wells - This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 642, Well; and all local, state, and federal laws.

2). Special Responsibilities

   a) Any contractor who drills a well must be licensed with the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

   b) All wells shall be registered with DOTD in accordance with state laws.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Minimum** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $7,500
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Well Decommissioning (351)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect water quality by preventing contamination of ground water from surface runoff into abandoned water wells.

B. **Apply** this practice to any drilled or hand-dug abandoned water well that is located on farmland or a farmstead that has been permanently discontinued from use and threatens to contaminate or pollute the groundwater aquifer.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Abandoned water wells must be plugged according to Federal, State, and local health and environmental laws.

2) Priority shall be given to wells that are contaminating aquifers used for drinking water.

3) This practice is only authorized for drilled or hand-dug abandoned water wells.

4) This practice is not allowed for water wells drilled at an oil or gas drilling site to supply water for drilling activities.

5) The participant must:

a. Secure all necessary permits without C/S assistance before starting construction of the practice

b. Provide a copy of any forms, logs, or reports required by Federal, State, or local well-plugging laws to the designated technician as part of the practice completion certification

c. Ensure that the surface area disturbed during practice establishment is seeded to vegetative cover without C/S assistance.

6) Cost-sharing is authorized for the following:

a. labor costs to remove pumps, associated piping, ungrouted liner pipe, and other obstacles that must be removed before the well is plugged.

Important: All debris must be disposed of according to state and local laws and regulations without C/S assistance.

b. chlorine used for disinfectant
c. material needed to fill and seal the well, such as, cement, bentonite, or other acceptable materials
d. cement or clay materials needed to cap dug wells
e. costs to back fill dug wells with surface materials to the surface
f. other similar materials
g. necessary labor costs to plug the well

7) Cost-sharing is not authorized for the following:

a. plugging test or exploratory wells or holes, which are considered the responsibility of the landowner and should have been properly plugged immediately after completion of all testing, sampling, or other operations for which the well or hole was originally intended.
b. plugging drive (punched) water wells, which are wells in which the screen section of the casing is driven into the water formation.
c. plugging oil or gas wells
d. fees charged for water quality testing.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 20 years after the calendar year that the well is plugged.

E. **Specifications** - The practice must meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in NRCS Practice 351.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Minimum** - 25 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **Maximum Not-To-Exceed** practice cost per contract - $10,000
- See 2003 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

CHAPTER IV

Conservation Plans and Contract Support Documents

Conservation Plan Format

Plan of Operations Requirements: Refer to the National EQIP Manual, Title 440, Part 515, Subpart I – EQIP Plan of Operations, 515.90-Overview.

- Producer's Copy

  Left side (from bottom up)

  1) Symbol Sheet
  2) Soil Map
  3) Conservation Plan Map with plan map legend on map

  Right Side (from bottom up)

  1) Signed and dated, SWCD agreement sheet
  2) AD 1026, CPA 026, and map
  3) Job Sheets (where applicable)
  4) Planned Forage Budget (where applicable)
  5) Grazing Plan or Schedule (where applicable)
  6) Forage Inventory (where applicable)
  7) Soil Loss Work Sheets
  8) Other worksheets as applicable
  9) Soil Interpretations
     - Non-Technical Soil Description
     - Suitability Groups
     - Other Interpretative Information
  10) Cooperators' decisions on land use and treatment

- NRCS Case File

  Left Side

  1) All of the above

  Right side

  1) Assistance notes
  2) Environmental evaluation
  3) Documentation beneath notes
  4) Engineering notes (as applicable)

CONTENTS OF 6 PART FOLDER FOR EQIP CONTRACTS 2003

Contract Requirements: Refer to the National EQIP Manual, Title 440, Part 515, Subpart K – Contracting, 515.111-Contract Requirements.

Part 1

- CCC-1200 (signed by all parties)
- CCC-1200 Appendix (signed)
- EQIP Ranking Form

Part 2

- Status Reviews (NRCS-LTP-13E)
- Assistance Notes
- Correspondence

Part 3

- Plan Map with title block (SCS-CPA-16)
- Soil Map with title block (SCS-CPA-15)
- Soil Interpretations
- Standard Map Symbols (LA-CON-13)

Part 4

- CPO Revision (LTP-12) (if applicable)
- CPO (LTP-11)
- Conservation Plan

Part 5

- Environmental Evaluation Documentation (LA-CPA-28)
- Soil Erosion Worksheet
- Pesticide Worksheet
- Pesticide Application Worksheet
- Nutrient Management Worksheet
- Nutrient Application Record
- Wildlife Habitat Summaries by land use
- Job Sheets (where applicable)
- Soil Test (s)
- Worksheet for Crop Rotation Evaluation
- AD-1026 and CPA-026(if determination was required)
- All Worksheets as Applicable

Part 6

- Notification of Selection
- CCC-1245(s)
- Invoices and other payment supporting documents
- Engineering Notes

CHAPTER V

2003 Fund Codes

2003 EQIP Fund Code

229999/2003

CHAPTER VI

Exhibits

A. Sample Letters

1. EQIP Application Cancellation Letter

EQIP Application Cancellation Letters: This letter is to be sent to EQIP applicants who's application has been canceled. The letter lists several reasons justifying application cancellation. Prior to sending the letter, check (X) the applicable reason for cancellation. **Field Offices are authorized to send out "Application Cancellation" letters immediately after application cancellation.**

Example EQIP Application Cancellation Letter

YOUR FIELD OFFICE LETTERHEAD

Date:

To:

Application No:
Program: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Dear _____

Your request for a contract in the above program has been canceled from funding consideration due to the following: (check applicable)

____ You have voluntarily requested that your application be terminated.
____ Your application has been determined to be ineligible due to "eligible producer" criteria.
____ Your application has been determined to be ineligible due to "eligible land" criteria.
____ NRCS has determined that you have started the requested practice(s) before your contract was formerly approved.

If you would like to apply for assistance on any other land that may be eligible for this program, please contact your local NRCS Office at (insert phone number) for application assistance.

If you feel that we have made this cancellation decision in error, please contact your local NRCS Office at (insert phone number) for your appeal rights.

Thank you for your interest in this program. We look forward to assisting you in the future.

Sincerely,

_____
District Conservationist

A. Sample Letters

2. EQIP Contract Approval Letter

EQIP Contract Approval Letter: This letter is to be sent to each EQIP applicant with an approved contract (CCC-1200). After the CCC-1200 has been approved and signed by the appropriate Contracting Officer, attach a copy of the CCC-1200 to this letter and send it to the participant. At that time, the contract will be active and the participant will be eligible to start practice implementation. **Field Offices are authorized to send out "Contract Approval" letters immediately following the approval of the EQIP contract by the Contracting Officer.**

Example EQIP Contract Approval Letter

YOUR FIELD OFFICE LETTERHEAD

Date:

To:

Application No:
Program: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Dear _____

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has determined that you meet all of the eligibility requirements for the program indicated above. **Accordingly, your contract request has been approved by NRCS for the amount indicated in Section 9c on the attached CCC-1200.**

Section 9a provides a list of practices to be completed as part of the terms of this contract, and includes the years in which they are scheduled for completion. They are the same practices that are listed on your Conservation Plan / Contract Support Document that was accepted by NRCS. All practices must by completed within the agreement period indicated in Section 9b. This office will notify you each year by letter and CCC-1245 which practice(s) are to be completed.

Contact the local NRCS Office at (insert phone number) to arrange for the implementation of the conservation practices included on this contract. Also, if contract modifications or practice implementation schedules need to be revised, please contact your local NRCS Office.

Sincerely,

_____
District Conservationist

A. Sample Letters

3. EQIP Deferred to Next Sign-Up Letter

EQIP Deferred to Next Signup Letter: This letter is to be sent to each EQIP applicant who has not been selected for funding at this time. If funding becomes available, the application can be reinstated for funding. The applicant has the choice of responding to one of three options within 30 days of the time of the letter. Option 1 is to consider the application as is in the next application period. Option 2 is to consider the application with revisions or changes in the next application period. Option 3 is to cancel the application. If NRCS is not notified of the applicant's intent within the 30-day timeframe, the application will be automatically disapproved. **Field Offices will not send out "Deferred to Next Signup" letters until notified by State Office.**

Example EQIP Deferred to Next Signup Letter

YOUR FIELD OFFICE LETTERHEAD

Date:

To:

Application No:
Program: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Dear _____

Your request for a contract in the above program has been deferred due to current lack of funds. Because of limited funding, not all of the high priority requests could be funded at this time.

If you would like USDA to consider you application "as is" in the next application period, then you need to contact the NRCS Office within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter to express your interest.

If you would like USDA to consider your application again in the next application period, but would like to make revisions or changes to your application, you must contact the NRCS Office within 30 calendar days from the date of this letter to express your intent. NRCS will contact you prior to the end of the next application period.

If you do not want your application to be considered on the next application period, you can either contact the NRCS Office and express your intent, or if the NRCS Office is not contacted within the 30-calendar-day timeframe, your application will be disapproved.

Please contact the local NRCS Office at (insert phone number) to express your intention for future application consideration.

Thank you for your interest in this program. We look forward to assisting you in the future.

Sincerely,

_____
District Conservationist

A. Sample Letters

4. EQIP Practice Implementation Letter

EQIP Practice Implementation Letter: This letter is to be sent to EQIP participants each year with their CCC-1245(s) attached to it. The letter references the CCC-1245 which informs the participant of practices scheduled for completion. The letter also instructs the participant on completion of the CCC-1245. **Field Offices are authorized to send out "Practice Implementation" letters immediately following the availability of CCC-1245's. Further guidance will be provided on preparing CCC-1245's.**

Example EQIP Practice Implementation Letter

YOUR FIELD OFFICE LETTERHEAD

Date:

To:

Contract No:
Program: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Dear _____

Your approved contract for the above program requires that practices be completed this fiscal year. The attached CCC-1245 indicates the practice and amounts that have been previously approved.

Please use the following as a guide in completing and reporting the approved practice:

1. Make arrangements to install the practice as soon as practical.

2. Make arrangements to obtain the necessary easements and permits to perform the practice.

3. Carry out the practice according to required NRCS standards and specifications to ensure an effective practice. **All NRCS standards and specifications must be met to qualify for financial assistance for the above program.**

4. If you start the practice and cannot finish it by the expiration date in Block 10, please notify us in advanced. If the reasons justify an extension of time, an extension will be approved.

5. Sign and date your copy of CCC-1245 when the practice is completed, by the expiration date on the form; otherwise the practice may be cancelled. Follow the instructions in Block 17 to complete CCC-1245.

6. Furnish sales slips, invoices, or other evidence for the labor and materials used in connection with each practice so that it can be used in determining practice completion and payments.

Contact the local NRCS Office at (insert phone number) if you have any questions or need of assistance in implementing the conservation practices or completing the CCC-1245.

Sincerely,

_____

A. Sample Letters

5. EQIP Selected for Plan Development Letter

EQIP Selected for Plan Development Letter: This letter is to be sent to each EQIP applicant who has been tentatively selected for plan development. The letter informs the applicant that they have been selected for development of a conservation plan and contract support document. When these documents have been developed and signed, the CCC-1200, EQIP Contract, will be considered for approval by the appropriate Contracting Officer. This letter is not formal approval of the contract request and the participant is not to start any practice before their contract (CCC-1200) has been formally approved in writing by NRCS. **Field Offices will not send out "Selected for Plan Development" letters until notified by State Office.**

Example EQIP Selected for Plan Development Letter

YOUR FIELD OFFICE LETTERHEAD

Date:

To:

Application No:
Program: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Dear _____

Your request for the above program was selected as a high priority request by the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and has been selected for **development of a conservation plan**. After your plan has been developed, approved by the Conservation District, and determined to be acceptable to you, NRCS will make a contract approval determination.

This letter does not serve as a formal approval of your contract request. Please do not start any practice before your contact has been formally approved in writing by NRCS. Starting a practice before approval will invalidate that practice for receiving assistance and may alter the chances of your request being selected for approval.

We look forward to working closely with you through this process that will help you meet your natural resource goals and objectives.

Please contact the local NRCS Office at (insert phone number) to make arrangements to complete your conservation plan. This plan serves as the basis of your contract.

Sincerely,

_____
District Conservationist

B. EQIP Resource Concerns

NRCS will document, on the Contract Support Document, the Resource Concern for each approved contract item (cost-shared practice). The following list of EQIP Resource Concerns will be referenced.

Exhibit B

EQIP RESOURE CONCERNS

CODE	RESOURCE	CONCERN	PROBLEM
SE1	SOIL	Soil Quality	Excessive Sheet and Rill Erosion
SE2	SOIL	Soil Quality	Excessive Other Erosion, Classic Gully, Ephemeral Gully, Channel Scour, Streambank
SQ1	SOIL	Soil Quality	Excessive Wind Erosion
SQ2	SOIL	Soil Quality	Irrigation Induced Erosion
SQ3	SOIL	Soil Quality	Soil Mass Movement
SQ4	SOIL	Soil Quality	Road Banks and Construction Site Erosion
SQ5	SOIL	Soil Quality	Increased Compaction
SQ6	SOIL	Soil Quality	Use Limitations, Poor Soil Tilth, Crusting, infiltration, Organic Matter
SQ7	SOIL	Soil Quality	Soil Contaminants from Excess Animal Waste, Pesticides, or Other Organics
SQ8	SOIL	Soil Quality	Build Up of Soil Phosphorus
SQ9	SOIL	Soil Quality	Increased Salinity
SQ10	SOIL	Soil Quality	Subsidence
SQ11	SOIL	Soil Quality	Soil Deposition
SQ12	SOIL	Soil Quality	Other
SL1	SOIL	Land Quantity	Conservation of Agricultural Lands to Non-Agricultural Use
SL2	SOIL	Land Quantity	Other
WQ1	WATER	Quantity	Excess Subsurface Water
WQ2	WATER	Quantity	Flooding/Excess Surface Water
WQ3	WATER	Quantity	Insufficient Water Supply for Communities or Individuals
WQ4	WATER	Quantity	Insufficient Water Supply for Fish and/or Wildlife
WQ5	WATER	Quantity	Insufficient Water Supply for Irrigation

WQ6	**WATER**	**Quantity**	**Insufficient Water Supply for Livestock**

WQ7	**WATER**	**Quantity**	**Loss of Wetlands**
WQ8	**WATER**	**Quantity**	**Declining Water Tables**
WQ9	**WATER**	**Quantity**	**Other**
WG1	**WATER**	**Ground Water Quality**	**Nutrients**
WG2	**WATER**	**Ground Water Quality**	**Animal Waste, Organics and Pathogens**
WG3	**WATER**	**Ground Water Quality**	**Pesticides**
WG4	**WATER**	**Ground Water Quality**	**Salts and Heavy Metals**
WG5	**WATER**	**Ground Water Quality**	**Loss of Wetlands**
WG6	**WATER**	**Ground Water Quality**	**Other**
WS1	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Nutrients**
WS2	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Animal Waste, Organics and Pathogens**
WS3	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Pesticides**
WS4	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Salts and Heavy Metals**
WS5	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Loss of Wetlands**
WS6	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Loss of Riparian Vegetation**
WS7	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Sedimentation**
WS8	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Streambank and Shoreline Erosion and Degradation**
WS9	**WATER**	**Surface Water**	**Water Temperature Extremes**

WS10	**WATER**	**Surface Water Quality**	**Other**
AQ1	**AIR**	**Quality**	**Airborne Chemical Drift**
AQ2	**AIR**	**Quality**	**Airborne Odors**
AQ3	**AIR**	**Quality**	**Particulates Pollution, Smoke or Other Pollutants (Fungi, Molds, Pollen)**
AQ4	**AIR**	**Quality**	**Particulates Pollution, Excessive Wind Erosion**
AQ5	**AIR**	**Quality**	**Other**
PF1	**PLANTS**	**Forest Health**	**Deforestation**
PF2	**PLANTS**	**Forest Health**	**Pest Infestation**
PF3	**PLANTS**	**Forest Health**	**Other**
PG1	**PLANTS**	**Grazing Lands Health**	**Excessive Erosion**
PG2	**PLANTS**	**Grazing Lands Health**	**Invasion of Noxious Weeds**
PG3	**PLANTS**	**Grazing Lands Health**	**Invasion of Woody Vegetation**
PG4	**PLANTS**	**Grazing Lands Health**	**Other**
PP1	**PLANTS**	**Plant Population Health**	**Loss of Plant Diversity - Declining Species**
PP2	**PLANTS**	**Plant Population Health**	**Loss or Degradation of Riparian Vegetation**
PP3	**PLANTS**	**Plant Population Health**	**Plants not Adapted to Site**
PP4	**PLANTS**	**Plant Population Health**	**Streambank and Shoreline Erosion and Degradation**
PP5	**PLANTS**	**Plant Population**	**Other**

AH1	**ANIMALS**	**Habitat Quality**	**Acid Rain**
AH2	**ANIMALS**	**Habitat Quality**	**Invasion of Nonindigenous Plant or Animal Species**
AH3	**ANIMALS**	**Habitat Quality**	**Loss or Degradation of Forest or Grass Cover**
AH4	**ANIMALS**	**Habitat Quality**	**Loss or Degradation of Riparian Habitat**
AH5	**ANIMALS**	**Habitat Quality**	**Loss or Fragmentation of Habitat/Inadequate Water Source**
AH6	**ANIMALS**	**Habitat Quality**	**Sedimentation or Eutrophication of Water Body**
AH7	**ANIMALS**	**Habitat Quality**	**Water Temperature Extremes**
AH8	**ANIMALS**	**Habitat Quality**	**Other**
AP1	**ANIMALS**	**Population Health**	**Bioaccumulation of Toxins**
AP2	**ANIMALS**	**Population Health**	**Loss of Diversity – Declining Species – Population Imbalance**
AP3	**ANIMALS**	**Population Health**	**Other**
AW1	**ANIMALS**	**Wetlands Health**	**Impaired Water Quality**
AW2	**ANIMALS**	**Wetlands Health**	**Impaired Water Quality, Agricultural Runoff**
AW3	**ANIMALS**	**Wetlands Health**	**Loss of Plant Diversity - Declining Species**
AW4	**ANIMALS**	**Wetlands Health**	**Loss of Wetlands - Loss of Adjacent Habitat**
AW5	**ANIMALS**	**Wetlands Health**	**Sedimentation of Basins**
AW6	**ANIMALS**	**Wetlands Health**	**Significant Hydrological Modification**
AW7	**ANIMALS**	**Wetlands Health**	**Other**

C. Designated Conservationist and Contracting Officers

Designated Conservationist

- The Designated Conservationist has the authority to approve/certify EQIP contract payments on the CCC-1245. In the absence of the primary Designated Conservationist (DC), the DC Alternate I or DC Alternate II has the same authority.

Contracting Officer

- Each Service Center has been appointed two Contracting Officers with separate authorities.
    - Contracting Officer (Approval of Contracts and Modifications): This Contracting Officer has the authority to approve and sign the EQIP contract (CCC-1200) and any contract modifications. In the absence of the primary Contracting Officer (CO), the CO Alternate I has the same authority.
    - Contracting Officer (Approval of Contract Terminations): This Contracting Officer has the authority to approve EQIP contract terminations.

Exhibit C

Louisiana EQIP Designated Conservationist (effective 3/11/03)

AREA I	Designated Conservationist (DC) (Approval of Contract Payments)	DC Alternate I (Approval of Contract Payments)	DC Alternate II (Approval of Contract Payments)
Bastrop Service Center	Larry Phillips	Jerry Shows	Steve Nipper
Benton Service Center	Rick Adams	James Shivers	Steve Nipper
Columbia Service Center	Terry Johnston	Clyde Irvin	Steve Nipper
Farmerville Service Center	Todd Sewell	Larry Phillips	Steve Nipper
Ferriday Service Center	Richard Taunton	Jeff Jenkins	Steve Nipper
Jonesville Service Center	Clyde Irvin	Jeff Jenkins	Steve Nipper
Lake Providence Service Center	Floyd Hooker	Anthony Bridgewater	Steve Nipper
Minden Service Center	Bobbie Wall	Todd Sewell	Steve Nipper
Monroe Service Center	Terry May	Floyd Hooker	Steve Nipper
Oak Grove Service Center	Jerry Shows	Larry Phillips	Steve Nipper
Rayville Service Center	Samuel Willis	Floyd Hooker	Steve Nipper
Ruston Service Center	James Shivers	Bobbie Wall	Steve Nipper
St. Joseph Service Center	Jeff Jenkins	Clyde Irvin	Steve Nipper
Tallulah Service Center	Anthony Bridgewater	Floyd Hooker	Steve Nipper
Winnsboro Service Center	Jason Hardie	Clyde Irvin	Steve Nipper
AREA II			
Addis Service Center	Jerry Hall	Gene Loupe	Larry Trahan
Amite Service Center	Donny Latiolais	Joe Roetker	Larry Trahan
Boutte Service Center	Allen Bolotte	Gene Loupe	Larry Trahan
Clinton Service Center	Dwight Johnson	Joe Roetker	Larry Trahan
Denham Springs Service Center	Joe Roetker	Jerry Hall	Larry Trahan
Donaldsonville Service Center	Steve Anderson	Jerry Hall	Larry Trahan
Franklin Service Center	Terrell Rabalais	Keith Latiolais	Larry Trahan
Franklinton Service Center	Anthony Beaubouef	Joe Roetker	Larry Trahan
Lafayette Service Center	Emmett Wilson	Larry Trahan	Randolph Joseph
New Iberia Service Center	Charles Stemmans	Keith Latiolais	Larry Trahan
New Roads Service Center	Lionel Sellars	Keith Latiolais	Larry Trahan
Opelousas Service Center	Keith Latiolais	Larry Trahan	Randolph Joseph
Thibodaux Service Center	Gene Loupe	Allen Bolotte	Larry Trahan
AREA III			
Abbeville Service Center	Bart Devillier	Scott Romero	Mike Cooley
Alexandria Service Center	Gordon Newton	Randy Soileau	Mike Cooley
Colfax Service Center	Michael Trusclair	John Rogers	Mike Cooley
Coushatta Service Center	Alvy Slatten	Glenn Austin	Mike Cooley
Crowley Service Center	Jack Haller	Bart Deviellier	Mike Cooley
DeRidder Service Center	Frank Chapman	Herb McDaniel	Mike Cooley
Jennings Service Center	Scott Romero	Bart Deviellier	Mike Cooley
Lake Charles Service Center	Charles Starkovich	Scott Romero	Mike Cooley
Leesville Service Center	Herbert McDaniel	John Rogers	Mike Cooley
Mansfield Service Center	vacant	Alvy Slatten	Mike Cooley
Many Service Center	John Rogers	Glenn Austin	Mike Cooley
Marksville Service Center	Kirk Garber	Gordon Newton	Mike Cooley
Natchitoches Service Center	Glenn Austin	Michael Trusclair	Mike Cooley
Oberlin Service Center	Susan McBride	Frank Chapman	Mike Cooley
Shreveport Service Center	Allison Johnson	Rick Adams	Mike Cooley
Ville Platte Service Center	Randy Soileau	Susie McBride	Mike Cooley

Louisiana EQIP Contracting Officer (Approval of Contracts and Modifications) (effective 3/11/03)

AREA I	Contracting Officer (CO) (Approval of Contracts and Modifications)	CO Alternate I (Approval of Contracts and Modifications)
Bastrop Service Center	Terry May	Steve Nipper
Benton Service Center	Bobbie Wall	Steve Nipper
Columbia Service Center	Terry May	Steve Nipper
Farmerville Service Center	James Shivers	Steve Nipper
Ferriday Service Center	Clyde Irvin	Steve Nipper
Jonesville Service Center	Ben Taunton	Steve Nipper
Lake Providence Service Center	Jerry Shows	Steve Nipper
Minden Service Center	Rick Adams	Steve Nipper
Monroe Service Center	Larry Phillips	Steve Nipper
Oak Grove Service Center	Floyd Hooker	Steve Nipper
Rayville Service Center	Anthony Bridgewater	Steve Nipper
Ruston Service Center	Todd Sewell	Steve Nipper
St. Joseph Service Center	Ben Taunton	Steve Nipper
Tallulah Service Center	Sam Willis	Steve Nipper
Winnsboro Service Center	Jeff Jenkins	Steve Nipper
AREA II		
Addis Service Center	Lionel Sellars	Larry Trahan
Amite Service Center	Tony Beaubouef	Larry Trahan
Boutte Service Center	John Boatman	Larry Trahan
Clinton Service Center	Joe Roetker	Larry Trahan
Denham Springs Service Center	Dwight Johnson	Larry Trahan
Donaldsonville Service Center	Gene Loupe	Larry Trahan
Franklin Service Center	Charles Stemmans	Larry Trahan
Franklinton Service Center	Donnie Latiolais	Larry Trahan
Lafayette Service Center	Keith Latiolais	Larry Trahan
New Iberia Service Center	Terrell Rabalais	Larry Trahan
New Roads Service Center	Jerry Hall	Larry Trahan
Opelousas Service Center	Emmett Wilson	Larry Trahan
Thibodaux Service Center	Steve Anderson	Larry Trahan
AREA III		
Abbeville Service Center	Jack Haller	Mike Cooley
Alexandria Service Center	Michael Trusclair	Mike Cooley
Colfax Service Center	Glenn Ausin	Mike Cooley
Coushatta Service Center	John Rogers	Mike Cooley
Crowley Service Center	Randy Soileau	Mike Cooley
DeRidder Service Center	Susie McBride	Mike Cooley
Jennings Service Center	Charles Starkovich	Mike Cooley
Lake Charles Service Center	Frank Chapman	Mike Cooley
Leesville Service Center	Susie McBride	Mike Cooley
Mansfield Service Center	Allison Johnson	Mike Cooley
Many Service Center	Herbert McDaniel	Mike Cooley
Marksville Service Center	Randy Soileau	Mike Cooley
Natchitoches Service Center	Gordon Newton	Mike Cooley
Oberlin Service Center	Herbert McDaniel	Mike Cooley
Shreveport Service Center	Alvy Slatten	Mike Cooley
Ville Platte Service Center	Scott Romero	Mike Cooley

Louisiana EQIP Contracting Officer (Approval of Contracts Terminations) (effective 3/11/03)

AREA I	Contracting Officer (Approval of Contract Terminations)
Bastrop Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Benton Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Columbia Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Farmerville Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Ferriday Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Jonesville Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Lake Providence Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Minden Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Monroe Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Oak Grove Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Rayville Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Ruston Service Center	Marlin Jordan
St. Joseph Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Tallulah Service Center	Marlin Jordan
Winnsboro Service Center	Marlin Jordan
AREA II	
Addis Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Amite Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Boutte Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Clinton Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Denham Springs Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Donaldsonville Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Franklin Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Franklinton Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Lafayette Service Center	Randolph Joseph
New Iberia Service Center	Randolph Joseph
New Roads Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Opelousas Service Center	Randolph Joseph
Thibodaux Service Center	Randolph Joseph
AREA III	
Abbeville Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Alexandria Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Colfax Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Coushatta Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Crowley Service Center	Bruce Lehto
DeRidder Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Jennings Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Lake Charles Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Leesville Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Mansfield Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Many Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Marksville Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Natchitoches Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Oberlin Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Shreveport Service Center	Bruce Lehto
Ville Platte Service Center	Bruce Lehto